Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン
8
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Story & Art by
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

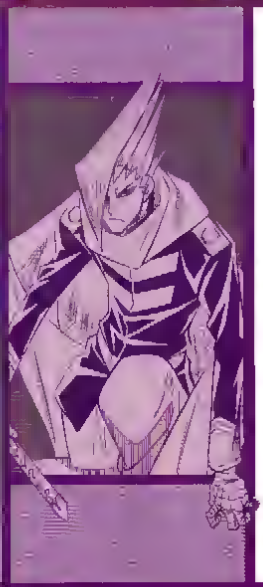
Buso Renkin

8

High school student Kazuki Muto had no clue what he was in for when he rescued damsel in distress Tokiko from a monster known as a "homunculus." Disguised as humans—who actually eat humans—homunculi are malevolent creatures that affix themselves to people's brains, and once fully grown, the only thing that can annihilate them is a weapon called *Buso Renkin*!

Kazuki and Tokiko are on the run from the hunters of the Alchemist Warriors! Tokiko, now reduced to the size of a doll, fights alongside Kazuki and Gouta as they take on three of the hunters and Captain Bravo himself, whose past is finally revealed! As Kazuki and Captain Bravo's battle draws to a close, another Warrior Chief appears, as well as a man calling himself the Great Warrior Chief. What will it mean for Kazuki and his friends?

From the creator of Rurouni Kenshin!



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$7.99 USA $9.99 CAN

This book reads from right to left

VIZ media

RATED T FOR OLDER TEEN
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ISBN-13: 978-1-4215-1048-0
ISBN-10: 1-4215-1048-4

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Bicycle

I treated myself to a new bicycle. Most of my hobbies—reading, watching movies, collecting toys—are done indoors. My only outdoor activity is riding my bike. I usually just ride it around town for a change of scenery, but something about moving at a speed faster than I can walk yet slower than a car really appeals to me. I want to use my new bike to help me lose weight.

—Nobuhiro Watsuki

Nobuhiro Watsuki earned international accolades for his first major manga series, **Rurouni Kenshin**, about a wandering swordsman in Meiji Era Japan. Serialized in Japan's *Weekly Shonen Jump* from 1994 to 1999, **Rurouni Kenshin**, available in North America from VIZ Media, quickly became a worldwide sensation, inspiring a spin-off short story ("Yahiko no Sakabatō"), an animated TV show and a series of novels. Watsuki's latest hit, **Buso Renkin**, began publication in *Weekly Shonen Jump* in 2003 and was adapted into an animated TV series in 2006.

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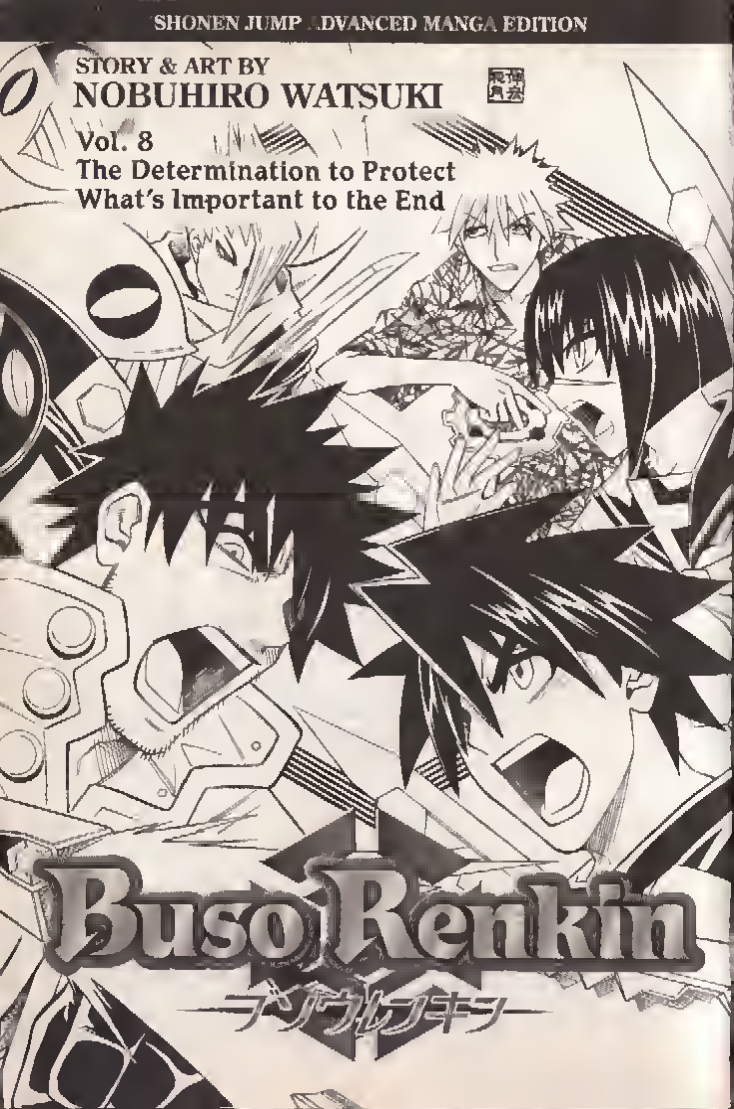
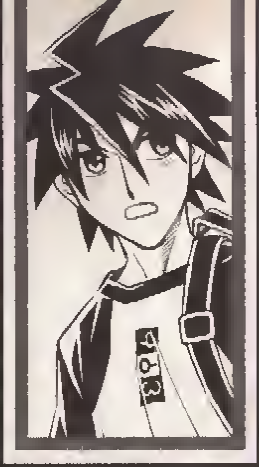


Buso Renkin

武装錬金

Alchemy
An early scientific practice that combines elements of various disciplines that came to Europe over the millennia. Its goals were the transmutation of base metals into gold and the creation of an Elixir of Immortality, neither of which succeeded. But unknown to the world at large, alchemy achieved two earthshaking supernatural successes–the homunculi and the kakugane



Kazuki Muto

Sixteen year-old Kazuki was killed by a homunculus but was restored to life by Tokiko, who replaced his heart with a magical talisman called a kakugane. His Buso Renkin is a lance called "Sunlight Heart Plus."

CHARACTERS

Homunculus
An artificial being created by alchemy. The form and powers of the homunculus differ depending on the organism it was based on. Homunculi feed on human flesh and can only be destroyed by the power of alchemy

Kakugane
The kakugane are forged from a magical alchemic alloy. They are activated by the deepest parts of the human psyche, the basic instincts. Each kakugane can materialize a unique weapon called a Buso Renkin

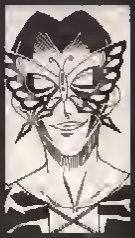
Tokiko Tsumura

A girl chosen to be an Alchemist Warrior, an expert of Buso Renkin. Her Buso Renkin is a Death Scythe called the "Valkyrie Skirt."

Gouta Nakamura

Angel Gozen

Captain Bravo
(Mamoru Sakimori)



Papillon
(Koushaku Chouno)

STORY

Following the destruction of Dr. Butterfly and the L.A.E., Kazuki battles former Alchemist Warrior Victor. Victor has become a being that draws energy directly from living creatures nearby—in this case, the students of Ginsei Academy. In the course of the battle, Kazuki's Sunlight Heart is broken, and he is only able to survive by temporarily transforming into a creature like Victor. It is discovered that the source of the transformation is the black kakugane that functions as Kazuki's heart.

Confronted with the fact that Kazuki will become a superhuman life-sucking "Victor" in a few weeks time, the Alchemist Army orders Kazuki's "re-extermination." Kazuki is defeated by Captain Bravo and hurled into the ocean, where he is rescued by Tokiko.

Hoping to find answers, Kazuki, Tokiko, and Warrior Gouta Nakamura make their way through the hinterland toward the place where Tokiko originally found Kazuki's black kakugane. Unfortunately, the Re-Extermination Squad ambushes them, and Tokiko is shrunk by Maruyama's floating mines.

Now doll-size and separated from her comrades, Tokiko is found by Papillon, who offers her his protection. But as they near their destination, a new threat appears in the form of the brutal Warrior Ikusabe. A battle ensues in an abandoned industrial area, and Ikusabe's formidable power is revealed: he can quickly regenerate even after being blown to smithereens!

Negoro

Maruyama

Hiwatari

Ikusabe

BUSO RENKIN
Volume 8: The Determination to Protect What's Important to the End

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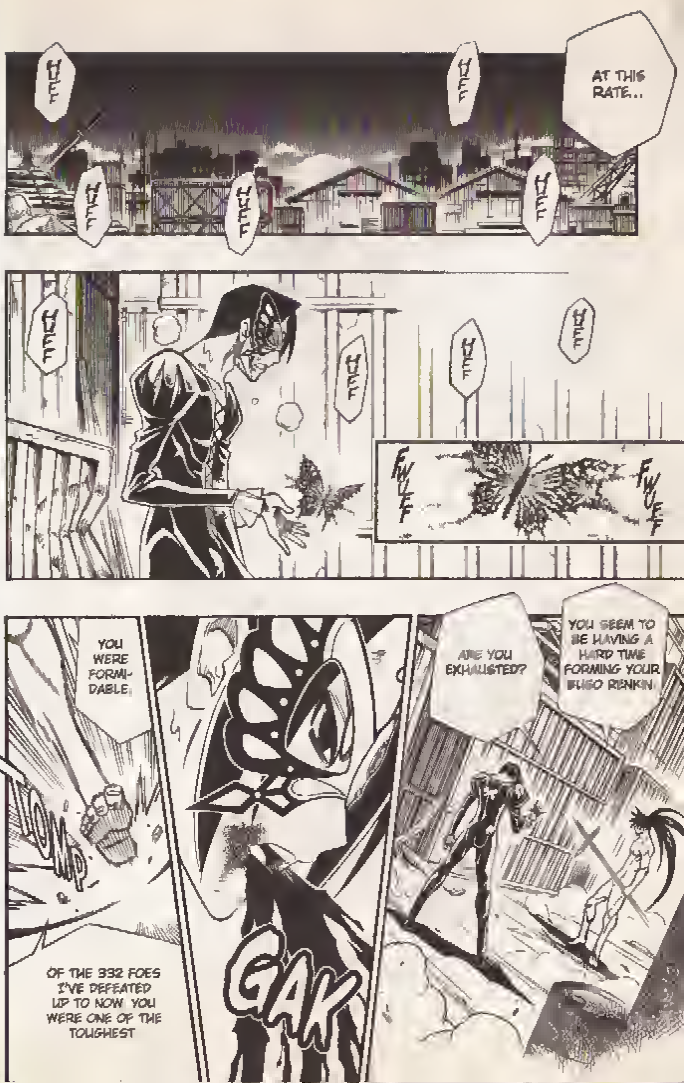
CHAPTER 64: EATER

和伸月宏

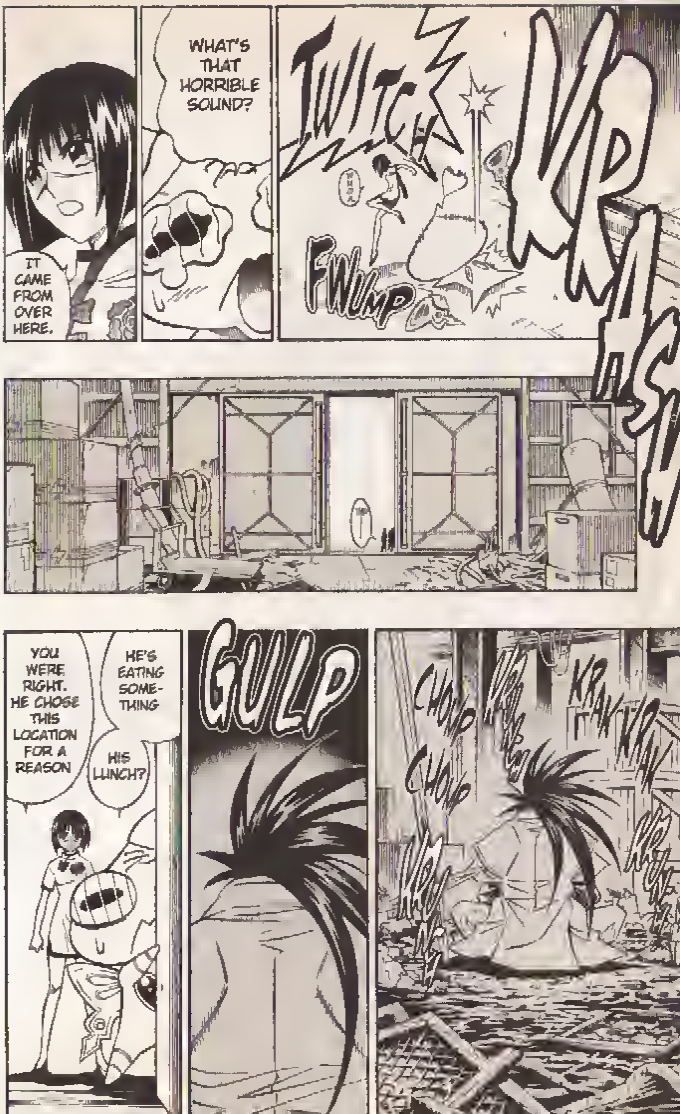

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AT THIS RATE...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
FWUFF
FWUFF
YOU WERE FORMIDABLE
KLOMP
OF THE 332 FOES I'VE DEFEATED UP TO NOW YOU WERE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST
GAK
ARE YOU EXHAUSTED?
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING A HARD TIME FORMING YOUR BUSO RENKIN

I'VE ALMOST FIGURED OUT YOUR SPEAR'S WEAKNESS.
DON'T BE ABSURD.
...AND DIE WITH A LITTLE DIGNITY
BUT STOP STRUGGLING ...
HUH
HUH

...ONLY DEGRADES YOU!
YOUR INABILITY TO ADMIT DEFEAT...
BLOCK
SHOT

AHHH!
ZAK ZAK
SHING
SHING
SHING
OR IS HE JUST BUYING HIMSELF TIME TO RECOVER?
HE ESCAPED
LIKE THEY SAY, YOU CAN'T WAGE WAR ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
IT'S LUNCHTIME.
I COULD USE A RECHARGE MYSELF
HE'S JUST ANOTHER HOMUNCULUS IN THE END
EITHER WAY...
RRMMB

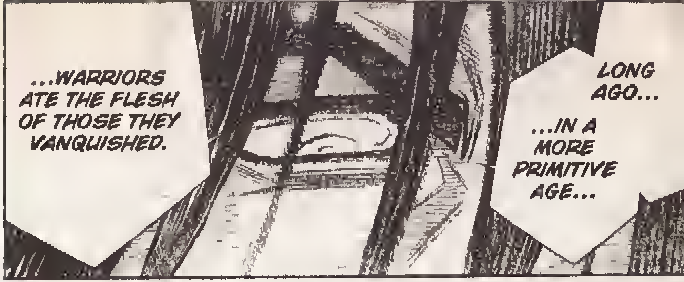
A BUSO RENKIN IS POWERED BY ITS WIELDER'S LIFE FORCE
IT MIRRORS ITS WIELDER'S STAMINA AND CONCENTRATION.
WHAT?!
TMP
TMP
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO GET AWAY.
NO, WE HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM.
REGENERATING HIS BODY, SHOULDN'T MAKE HIM HUNGRY?
HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.
WHERE'D HE GO?
FWAP
FWAP
WE LOST HIM.


IT CAME FROM OVER HERE.
WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE SOUND?
TWITCH
HHA
FWUMP
KRASH
YOU WERE RIGHT. HE CHOSE THIS LOCATION FOR A REASON
HE'S EATING SOME-THING
HIS LUNCH?
GULP
CHOMP CHOMP
KRAK KRAK

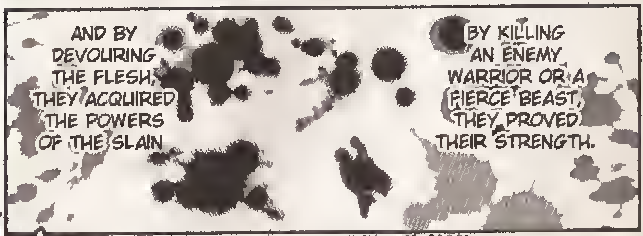
DOES HE HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL FOOD?
OR A NEW DRUG DEVELOPED BY THE ALCHEMIST ARMY, MAYBE?
HE HAS MORE LIFE FORCE THAN A NORMAL HUMAN.
!
KLAK
WHAT IS IT?
MACHINERY?
THERE'S SOMETHING HERE.
JUST DO IT.
WHAT?!
WELL, DO IT THEN.
FINE...
SUDDENLY
GOZEN, DO SOMETHING
I GUESS I CAN EMIT SOME SOFT LIGHT.

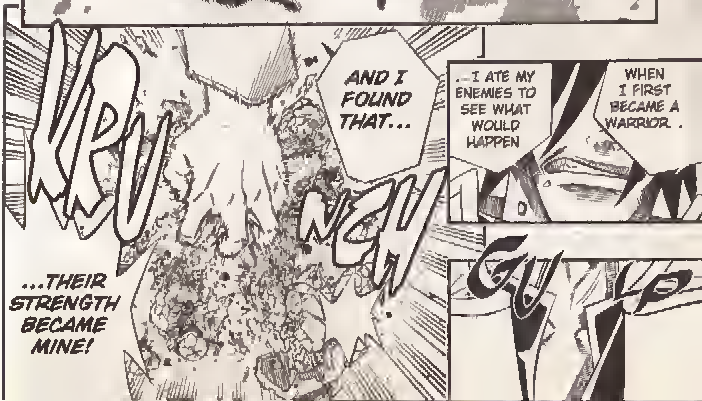
?!!
WHO'S THERE?!

...A HOMUNCULUS!
HE'S EATING...
SPLASH
SAW
ME
YOU
KRUNCH
IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD THAT DO ANYTHING FOR HIM?!
...THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER?
IS THAT...
IT...
HE'S ...


...WARRIORS ATE THE FLESH OF THOSE THEY VANQUISHED.
LONG AGO...
...IN A MORE PRIMITIVE AGE...

HUH?
WHAT?


AND BY DEVOURING THE FLESH, THEY ACQUIRED THE POWERS OF THE SLAIN
BY KILLING AN ENEMY WARRIOR OR A FIERCE BEAST, THEY PROVED THEIR STRENGTH.

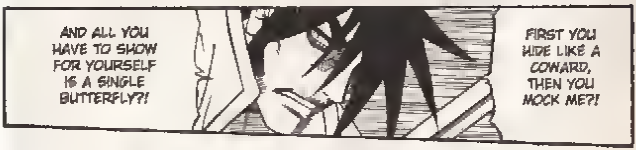

KRU
NCH
AND I FOUND THAT...
...THEIR STRENGTH BECAME MINE!
...I ATE MY ENEMIES TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
WHEN I FIRST BECAME A WARRIOR...
GULP

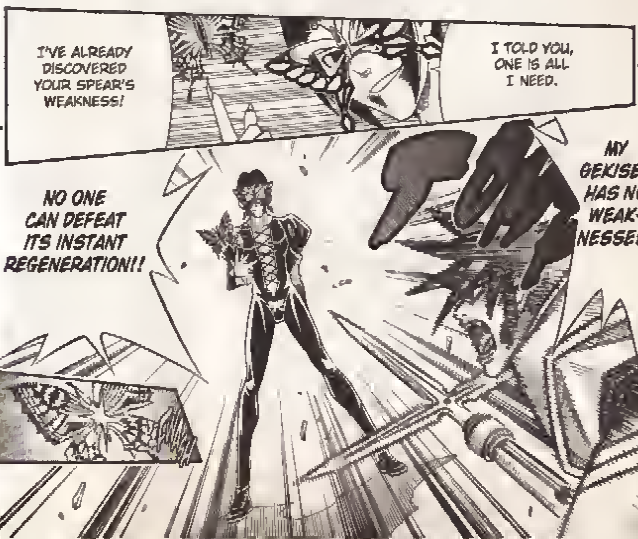
...THEY ARE MY FOOD!
THE HOMUNCULI ARE NOT ONLY MY ENEMIES...
...AN EVEN STRONGER ENEMY.
NOW I'M HUNGRY FOR...
BUT I'VE HAD MY FILL OF HOMUNCULI.
KRK
...A RITUAL HE PERFORMS TO CHARGE HIS OWN FIGHTING SPIRIT!
THIS "MEAL" OF HIS IS...
HE'S NOT AFTER NUTRITION
WOOSH

WHERE IS THIS VICTOR III?
KAZUKI MUTO.
WOOOOO
TOKIKO!
WELL, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING STRONGER THAN A HOMUNCULUS, TRY ME.
RIGHT?
YOU'LL KILL ME.
IF NOT...
IF YOU TELL ME, I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.

PAPILLON!
HE'S EATING IT TOO!
NOT VERY NUTRITIOUS ...
...OR PALATABLE.
KRUNCH
...IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER?
SO THIS...
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
TWITCH
PTOOF
WHAT? HOW ELSE DO YOU CHARGE YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT?
I ONLY NEED TO IMAGINE MY UPCOMING BATTLE WITH MUTO AND..
OF COURSE, I HAVE MY OWN WAYS.

FWOOF
AHH♡


AND ALL YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR YOURSELF IS A SINGLE BUTTERFLY?!
FIRST YOU HIDE LIKE A COWARD, THEN YOU MOCK ME?!


I'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED YOUR SPEAR'S WEAKNESS!
I TOLD YOU, ONE IS ALL I NEED.
NO ONE CAN DEFEAT ITS INSTANT REGENERATION!!
MY GEKISEN HAS NO WEAK-NESSES!

...OR THE TIMING OF YOUR REGENERATION.
"INSTANT" MEANS THAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE SPEED
TMP
TMP
AND THAT MEANS ...
ZAK ZAK
SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...YOU BEGIN TO HEAL RIGHT AWAY WHEREVER YOU ARE.
WHAT?!
WAAAH!
BOOM!

SHING
SHING
SHING
!!
...THE REGENERATION WOULD STOP. ♡
IF SOMETHING WERE TO COME BETWEEN YOU...
YOU WANT TO FIGHT SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL THAN A HOMUNCULUS?
WHY ... YOU ...

KRAK
KRAK
I'LL BE HAPPY TO CRUSH YOU ON MY WAY BACK.
UNTIL THEN...
EAT PLENTY!!

"I have only one desire—endless battle!"

Buso Renkin File No. 14

激戦

GEKISEN

- Kakugane Serial Number: XII (12)
- Creator: Genjir Ikusabe
- Form: Cross Spear
- Main Color: Lacquered Vermillion
- Special Abilities: Instant Regeneration
- Special Traits: The spear and its wielder are repaired or regenerated instantly when damaged
  The number of times the regeneration can be performed is dependent on the wielder's energy level (Ikusabe is able to replenish his by ritualistically devouring homunculi)
  If Gekisen leaves its master's hand during regeneration, the process ceases.

- Author's Notes:
  What abilities would suit a battle maniac who would keep fighting even after he lost a limb or two? The answer came to me in the form of Gekisen.
- Having created it, I found myself with a new problem—how to defeat it. I could only think of one way, so I used it. I wasn't completely happy with it, but it worked. I still wonder sometimes if I could've come up with something better.
  The design is based on a real weapon and I added some detail to the shaft. The spear head is what makes the cross spear distinctive so I didn't want to mess with that. It's cool just the way it is!

GEKISEN

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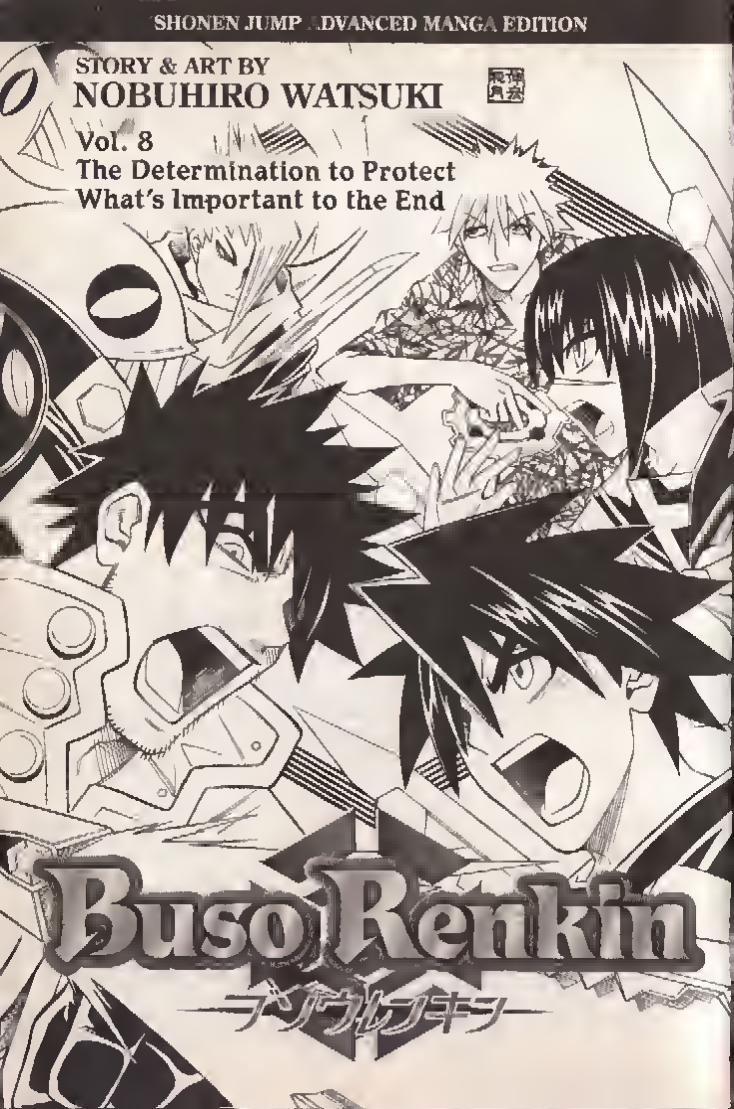
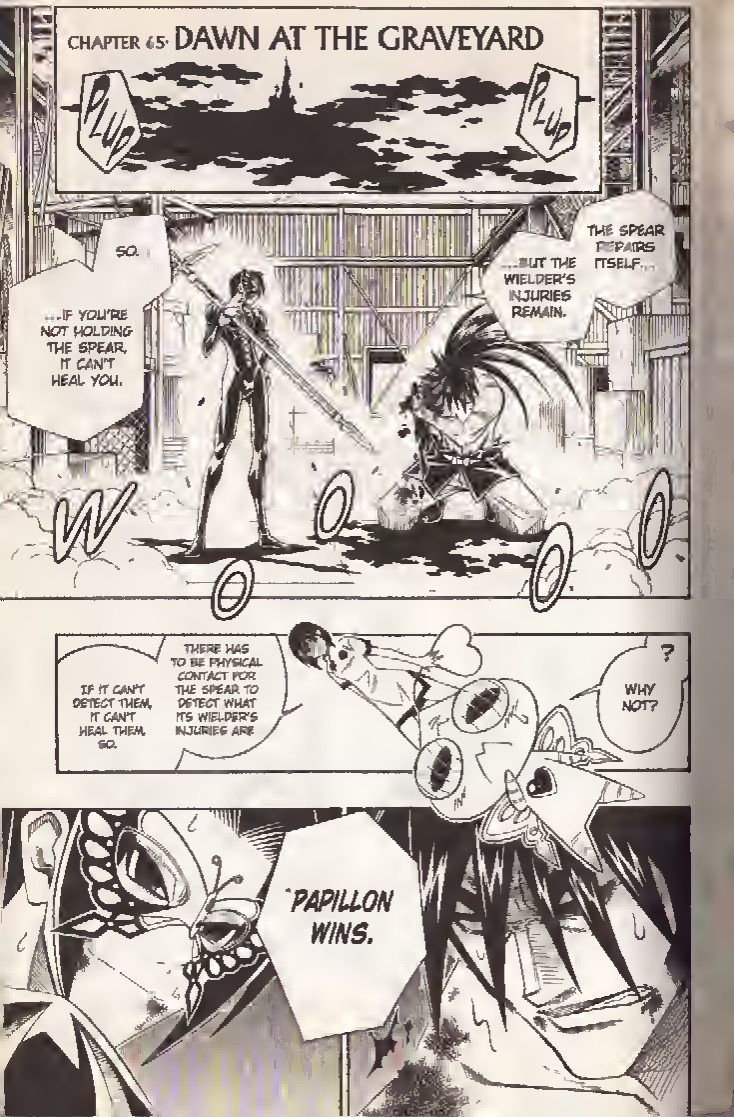


Buso Renkin

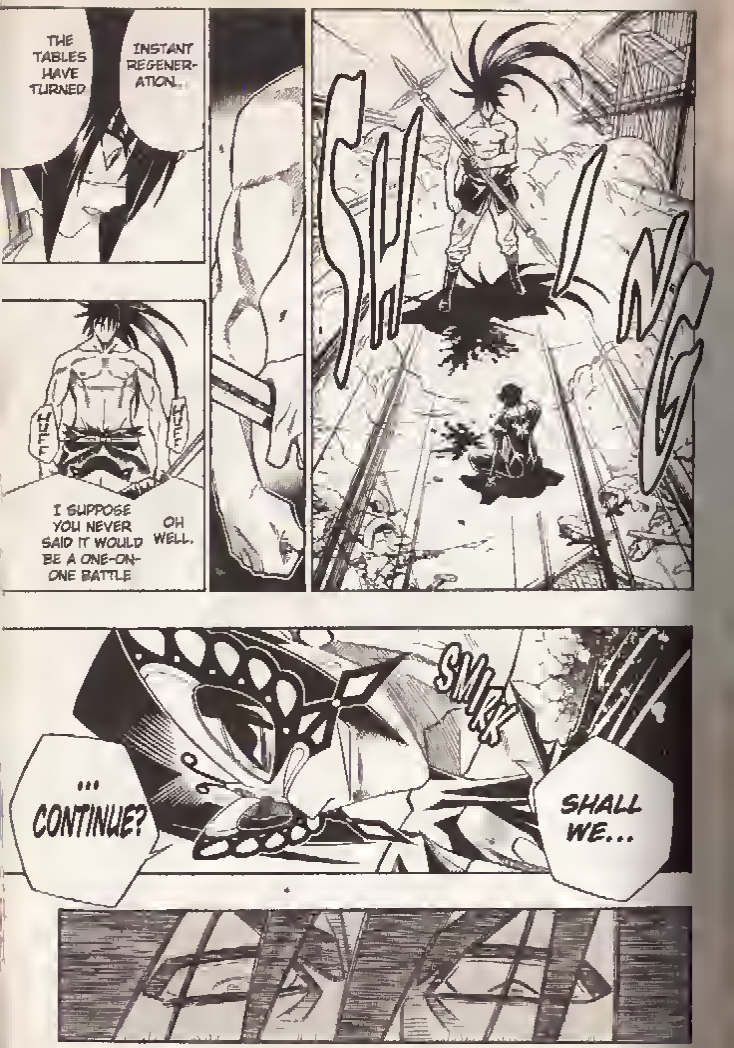
武装錬金


CHAPTER 65: DAWN AT THE GRAVEYARD
PLUP
PLUP
SO.
...IF YOU'RE NOT HOLDING THE SPEAR, IT CAN'T HEAL YOU.
...BUT THE WIELDER'S INJURIES REMAIN.
THE SPEAR REPAIRS ITSELF...
WOOO
IF IT CAN'T DETECT THEM, IT CAN'T HEAL THEM, SO.
THERE HAS TO BE PHYSICAL CONTACT FOR THE SPEAR TO DETECT WHAT ITS WIELDER'S INJURIES ARE
WHY NOT?
PAPILLON WINS.

?!
SW
ASH
NEGORO!!
THAT'S NOT HIS ARM!
HIS ARM'S REGENERATING?!

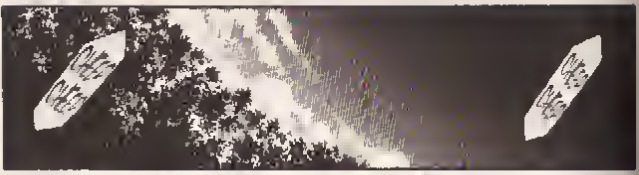
WHEN DID YOU SNEAK INTO MY BODY?!
HMPH!
WHOOM
WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING, OF COURSE.

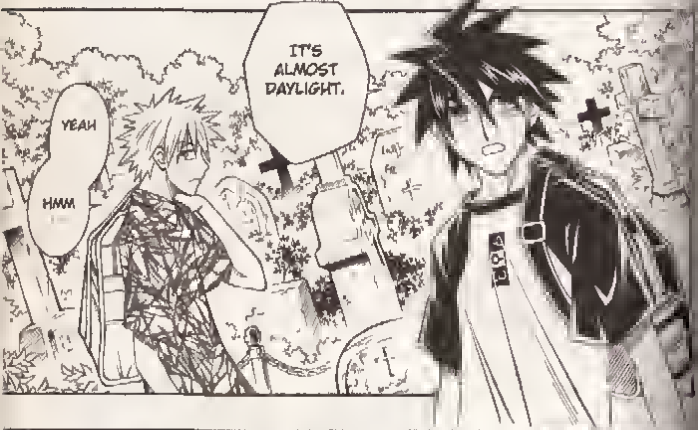
SHWAK
VUUU
VUUU
VUU
WAH!
KLK
HE DISAP-PEARED INTO THE PILLAR...
.. BY DIVING INTO IT!
TOKIKO, THIS IS BAD!
SH SHWING

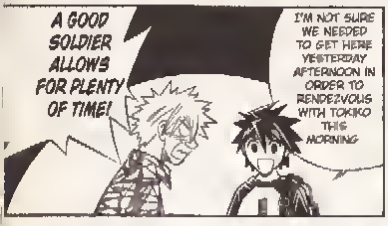

THE TABLES HAVE TURNED
INSTANT REGENERATION...
SH
I
N
G
HUFF
HUFF
I SUPPOSE YOU NEVER SAID IT WOULD BE A ONE-ON-ONE BATTLE
OH WELL.
SWISH
...CONTINUE?
SHALL WE...

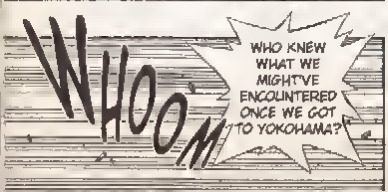
CHAPTER 65:

DAWN AT THE GRAVEYARD

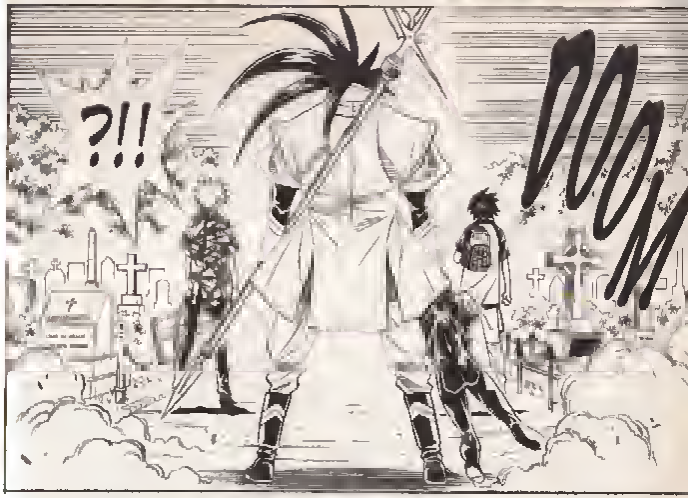



IT'S ALMOST DAYLIGHT.
YEAH
HMM


A GOOD SOLDIER ALLOWS FOR PLENTY OF TIME!
I'M NOT SURE WE NEEDED TO GET HERE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN ORDER TO RENDEZVOUS WITH TOKIKO THIS MORNING

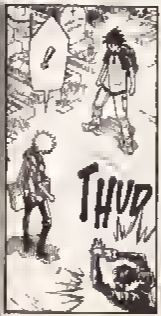

WHOOM
WHO KNEW WHAT WE MIGHT'VE ENCOUNTERED ONCE WE GOT TO YOKOHAMA?

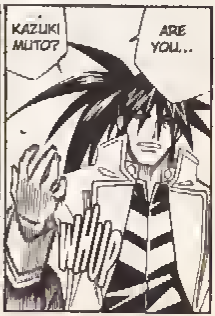
WE'RE A LITTLE EARLY.
TOKIKO SHOULD BE HERE BY NOW.


?!!
DOOM

GOOD POINT.
SEE?

CHOUNO!

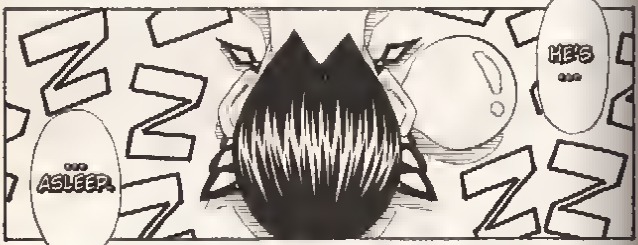

!
THUD

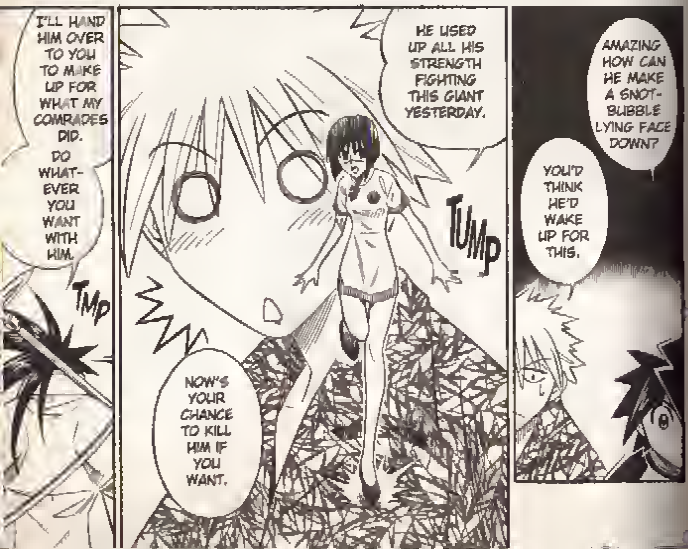

KAZUKI MUTO?
ARE YOU...

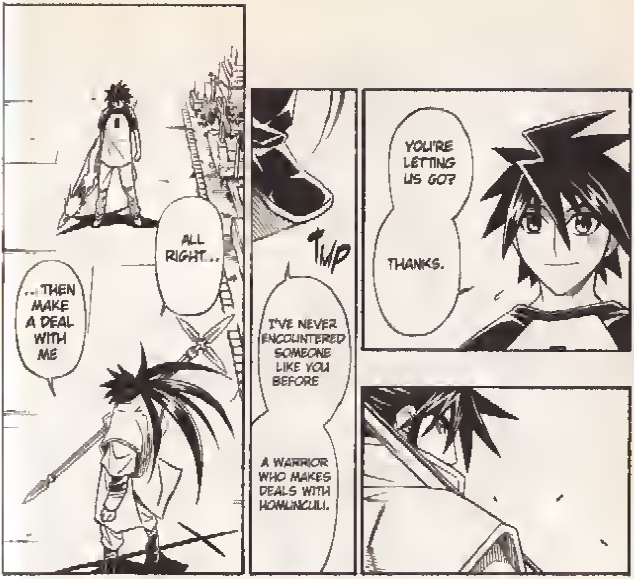
SHOOM
WHY YOU ...!!
!!!

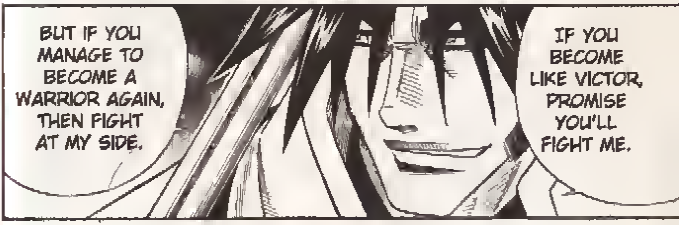
WHY WOULD THIS..
..MAKE YOU MAD?
HE'S A HOMUNCULUS
YOU WERE ONCE AN ALCHEMIST WARRIOR
HE WAS MINE!!
...WITH THAT GUY!!
I MADE A DEAL...
TAKE A GOOD LOOK! PAPPY ISN'T DEAD!
HOLD ON, KAZUKI!
CALM DOWN!
...MY WORD!
I GAVE HIM...

HUH?


HE'S...
...ASLEEP.

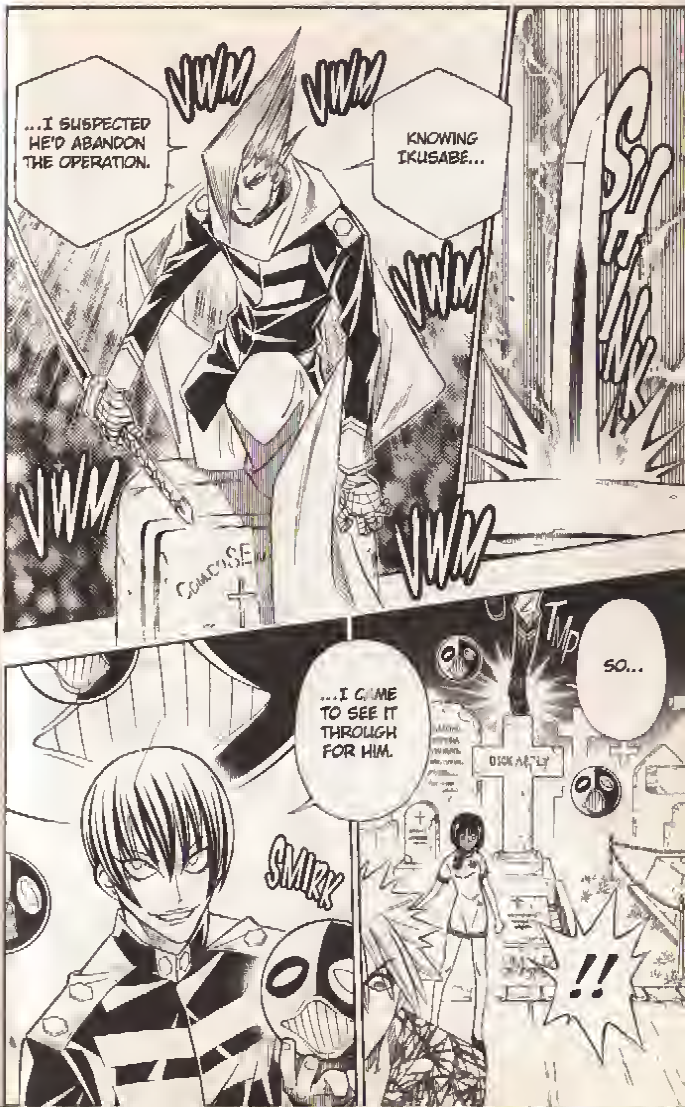

I'LL HAND HIM OVER TO YOU TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT MY COMRADES DID.
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT WITH HIM.
TMP
HE USED UP ALL HIS STRENGTH FIGHTING THIS GIANT YESTERDAY.
THUMP
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO KILL HIM IF YOU WANT.
AMAZING HOW CAN HE MAKE A SNOT-BUBBLE LYING FACE DOWN?
YOU'D THINK HE'D WAKE UP FOR THIS.


ALL RIGHT..
...THEN MAKE A DEAL WITH ME
TWD
I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED SOMEONE LIKE YOU BEFORE
A WARRIOR WHO MAKES DEALS WITH HOMUNCULI.
YOU'RE LETTING US GO?
THANKS.

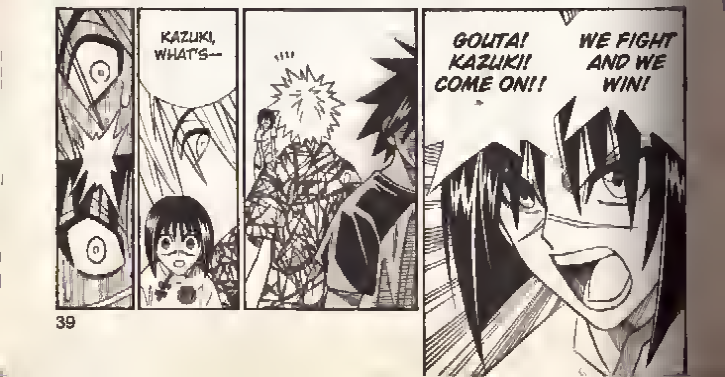

BUT IF YOU MANAGE TO BECOME A WARRIOR AGAIN, THEN FIGHT AT MY SIDE.
IF YOU BECOME LIKE VICTOR, PROMISE YOU'LL FIGHT ME.

BUT I'LL BE HAPPY TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE SOMEDAY.
I HAVE TO SAY "NO THANKS" TO THE FIRST OPTION.

GOTTA PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
THAT GIANT'S RIGHT!
HUH?
THE ENEMY IS VERY CLOSE.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
HE'S A MASTER OF COVERT WARFARE.
ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RE-EXTERMINATION SQUAD HAS A BUSO RENKIN THAT ALLOWS HIM TO ENTER SOLID OBJECTS.
YOU'RE VERY ASTUTE.
THIS MAKES A SURPRISE ATTACK MORE DIFFICULT.
WE HAVE TO ASSUME HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE LAST NIGHT.


...I SUSPECTED HE'D ABANDON THE OPERATION.
KNOWING IKUSABE...
VWM
VWM
VWM
VWM
SWIRL
...I CAME TO SEE IT THROUGH FOR HIM.
SWIRL
SO...
TAP
!!

DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK?
WE'RE NOT FAR FROM NEWTON APPLE ACADEMY.
SO WHAT NOW?


KAZUKI, WHAT'S--
!!!!
GOUTA! KAZUKI! COME ON!!
WE FIGHT AND WE WIN!

WE FIGHT ...
... AND WE WIN!!
I KNOW, TOKIKO.
DOOM

- Height: 193 cm, Weight: 120 kg
Born: July 27, Leo, Blood Type: B, Age: 27
Likes: Winning battles, losing battles
Dislikes: A peaceful life, sneak attacks, trickery
Hobby: Studying military history
Special Ability: Eating homunculi
Affiliations: Alchemist Army, Re-Extermination Squad

Character File No. 29

GENJI IKUSABE

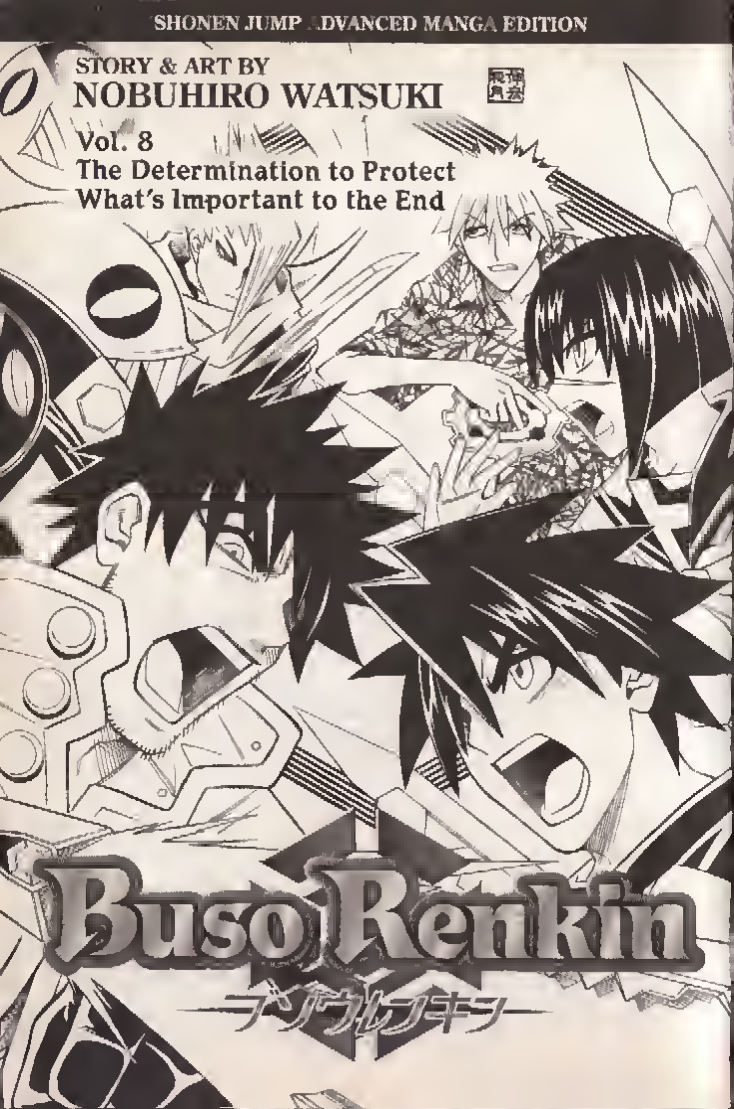
Author's Notes

- Ikusabe is the "Battle Maniac" that's a stock character in most action mangat. But I wanted to make sure he didn't come across as someone who was actually insane, so maybe Ikusabe would be more correctly classified as a "Battle Enthusiast."
- Even before I became a manga artist, I had in mind a character whose strength was determined by how much he ate. I combined that with the ancient belief that a warrior could acquire the power of anything—or anyone—he ate, and the result was Ikusabe. I had a bunch of ideas for this character—like having his hair bristle when he got excited or having him laugh maniacally and run around like an anatomical model from a biology class whenever he regenerated—but I decided against them all in the end. Now that I think about it, since he ended up fighting Papilon, maybe I should've left them in.
I wanted him to look like an extravagant sword master or feudal warlord with a Watsuki flavor, but he ended up looking more like Hachimaru from *Samurai Shodown*. He is one of my favorite Re-Extermination Squad characters, I'd like to use him again someday after a few modifications.

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA EDITION

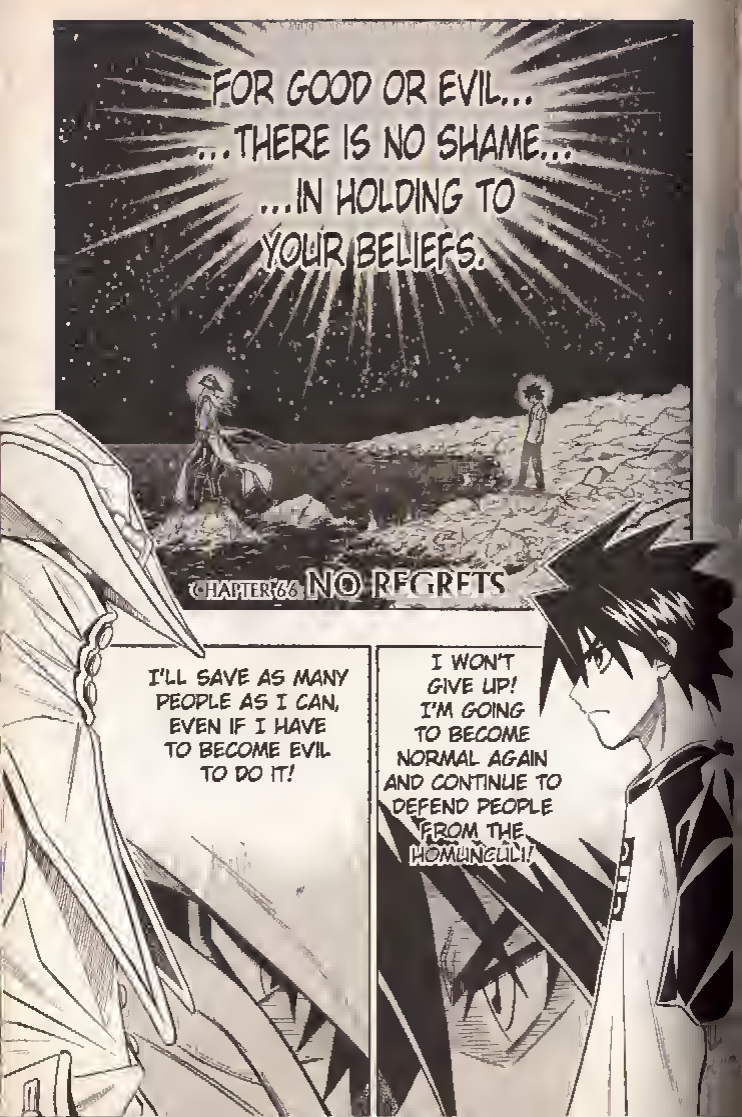
STORY & ART BY
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

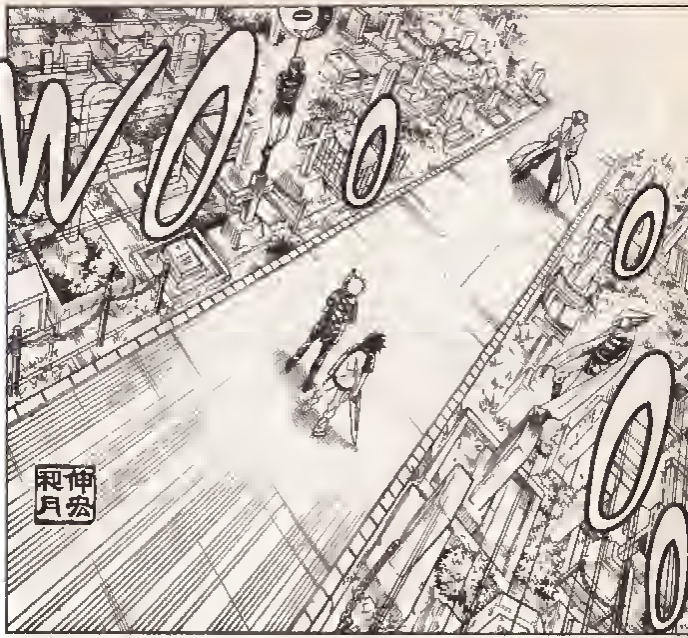
Vol. 8
The Determination to Protect
What's Important to the End



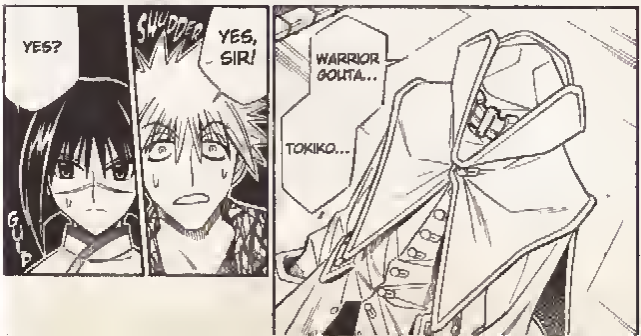
Buso Renkin

武装錬金

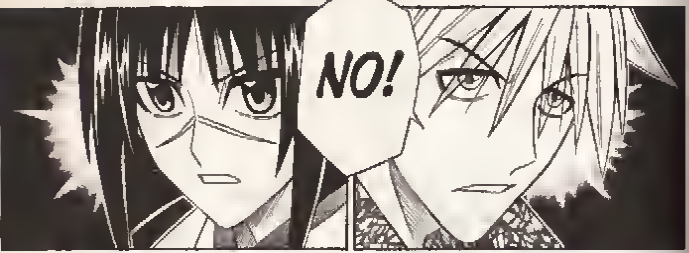

FOR GOOD OR EVIL...
...THERE IS NO SHAME...
...IN HOLDING TO
YOUR BELIEFS.
CHAPTER 66 NO REGRETS
I'LL SAVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS I CAN, EVEN IF I HAVE TO BECOME EVIL TO DO IT!
I WON'T GIVE UP! I'M GOING TO BECOME NORMAL AGAIN AND CONTINUE TO DEFEND PEOPLE FROM THE HOMUNCULI!

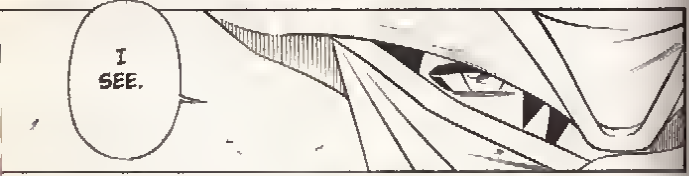


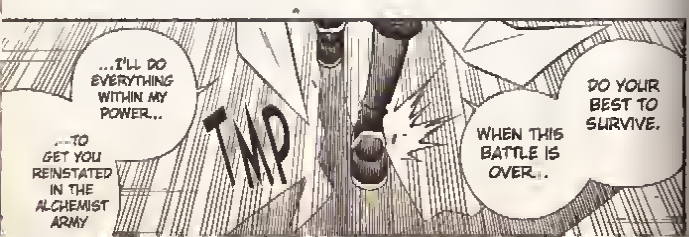
CHAPTER 66: NO REGRETS



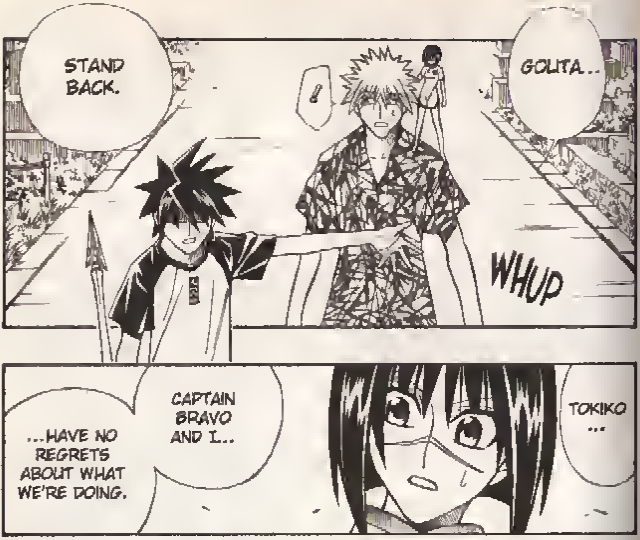
...THE COURSE OF ACTION YOU'VE CHOSEN?
DO YOU REGRET...


NO!


I SEE.


...I'LL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER...
...TO GET YOU REINSTATED IN THE ALCHEMIST ARMY
TMP
DO YOUR BEST TO SURVIVE.
WHEN THIS BATTLE IS OVER...

WE HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR WHAT WE'RE DOING.
HEAR US OUT, PLEASE
I WON'T GO BACK WITHOUT KAZUKI.
THANK YOU, WARRIOR CHIEF...
...BUT...
A COLLEAGUE OF MINE...
..HAS ALREADY INFILTRATED THE SCHOOL AND INVESTIGATED IT.
!
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME...
...ABOUT THE HELMETED MAN YOU ENCOUNTERED AT NEWTON APPLE ACADEMY FOR GIRLS?
WARRIOR CHIEF!!
I CANNOT ENDANGER INNOCENT LIVES FOR A WILD GOOSE CHASE.
...IT'S A VERY DIM HOPE, I'M AFRAID.
I'M SURE YOU THINK THERE'S HOPE, BUT...
IF YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THAT, THEN PLEASE...
...GIVE KAZUKI MORE TIME!!


STAND BACK.
GOLITA..
WHUP
...HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING.
CAPTAIN BRAVO AND I...
TOKIKO ...
WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN, WE'LL HAVE NO REGRETS..
...NO MATTER WHO WE HAVE TO FIGHT!!!

WHAM

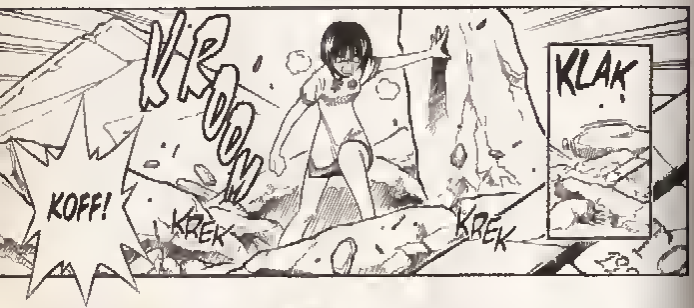
?!!
WHIP
AH!
TOKI-KO!
UMPH!!

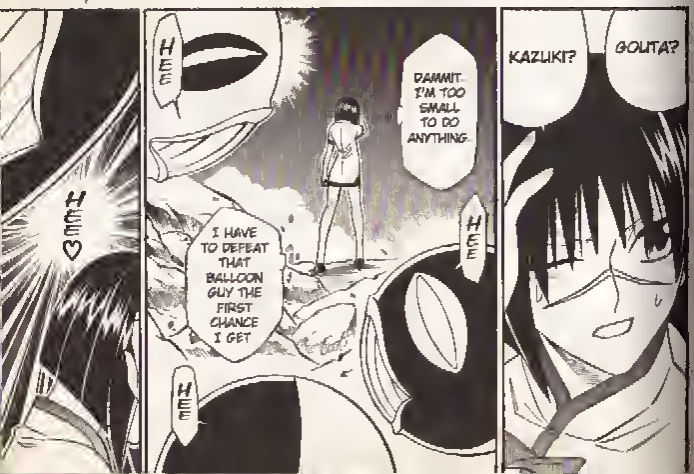
SHOOM
COMET!
BRAVO! KI—

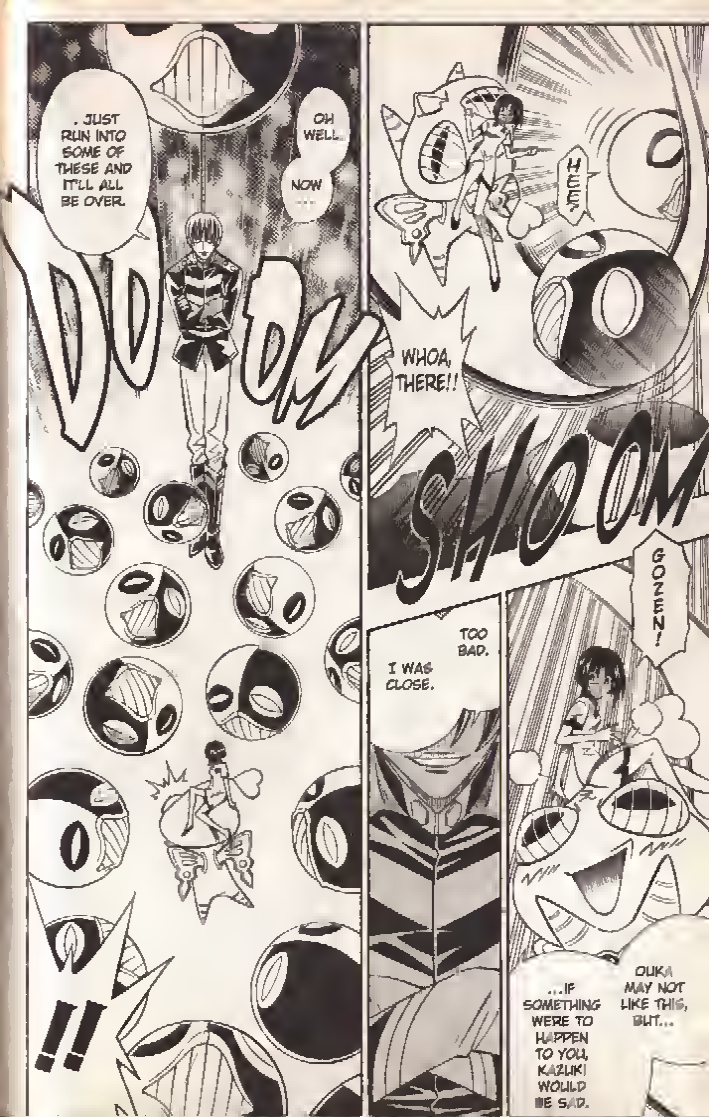
GRAAH!!

SHWAKK

W O O O O


KOFF!
KREK
KREK
KLAK

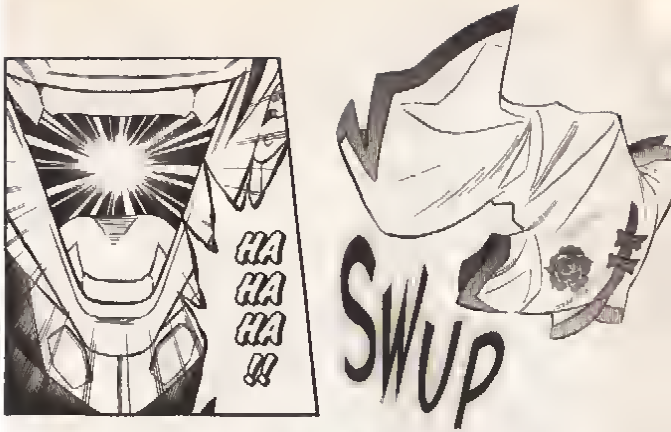

HEE
HEE♡
I HAVE TO DEFEAT THAT BALLOON GUY THE FIRST CHANCE I GET
HEE
DAMMIT... I'M TOO SMALL TO DO ANYTHING.
HEE
KAZUKI?
GOUTA?

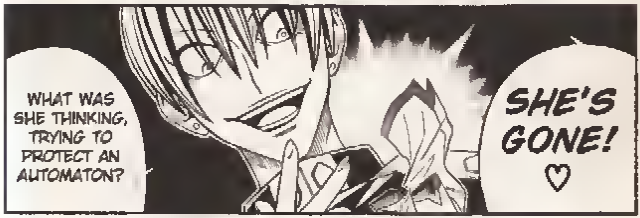

OUKA MAY NOT LIKE THIS, BUT...
...IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, KAZUKI WOULD BE SAD.
GOZEN!
TOO BAD.
I WAS CLOSE.
SHOOM
WHOA, THERE!!
HEE!
OH WELL.
NOW ...
. JUST RUN INTO SOME OF THESE AND IT'LL ALL BE OVER.
DOOM
!!

READ THIS WAY
WHUP
GOZEN, DO ME A FAVOR.
TWO MORE HITS AND YOU'RE HISTORY!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ONLY ABOUT A FOOT TALL RIGHT NOW.
THE BUBBLE CAGE REDUCES YOUR HEIGHT BY SIX INCHES WITH EACH MINE YOU DETONATE.
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
WHEN I RETURN TO MY NORMAL SIZE, I'LL NEED SOMETHING TO WEAR SO I CAN HELP KAZUKI AND GOUTA.
FWASH
GOUTA HAS MY BAG. GO FIND IT AND BRING IT TO ME.
BUSO
RENKIN!!
AK

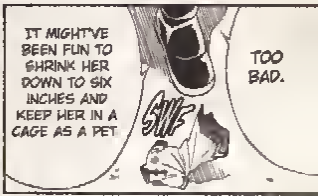
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW IS PRAY!
HA! I WOULDN'T FRET ABOUT MY WARDROBE IF I WERE YOU!
THWOOM
AN AIR-PRESSURE ATTACK.
OH NO! IT'S—
BOOM
FIND MY BAG AND BRING IT TO ME.
...!!
GOZEN, WHEN THAT BIG BALLOON EXPLODES, I'M GOING TO EXPAND THE ARMS OF MY VALKYRIE SKIRT AS MUCH AS I CAN.
STAY BEHIND ME AND MAKE YOUR BREAK AS SOON AS YOU SEE AN OPENING.
JUST DO IT!
BUT IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL ...

HAH!
SHUNK
SHUK
HEE
TEK
HEE
TWO HITS!
THEN...
SHRINK
BOOM
BOOM
TWIP


HA HA HA !!
SWUP


WHAT WAS SHE THINKING, TRYING TO PROTECT AN AUTOMATON?
SHE'S GONE! ♡

WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHAT ?
WHERE ..?
I'M ONLY AN INCH TALL NOW, BUT I'M STILL HERE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, MY ORIGINAL HEIGHT WAS 6'1. I WAS ACTUALLY 13 INCHES TALL BEFORE YOUR LAST ATTACK.


IT MIGHT'VE BEEN FUN TO SHRINK HER DOWN TO SIX INCHES AND KEEP HER IN A CAGE AS A PET.
TOO BAD.
SWF

YOU'RE A SICK, SICK BOY.
HMPH
?!

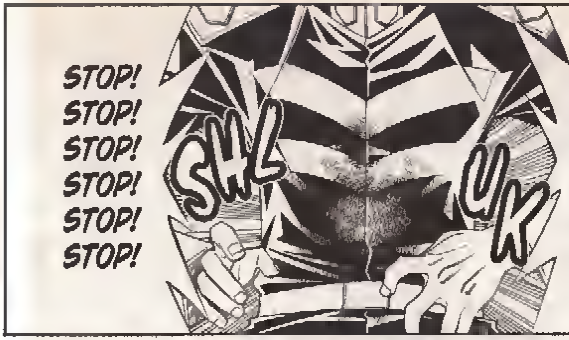
I'VE NEVER DONE THIS INSIDE SOMEONE BEFORE, BUT...
THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERY-THING
UM!
AH!
GOODBYE, MARUYAMA.
YOU'RE IN MY STOMACH?!
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU— DON'T GUFFAW WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN
WHA...
YOU NEEDED ONE MORE HIT.
I'M GOING TO...
...SPLATTER YOUR GUTS!

Buso Renkin
—ブソウレンキン—

CHAPTER 67:

SECRET PASSAGE OF SHADOWS

神宏和月


STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
SHL
UK
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!

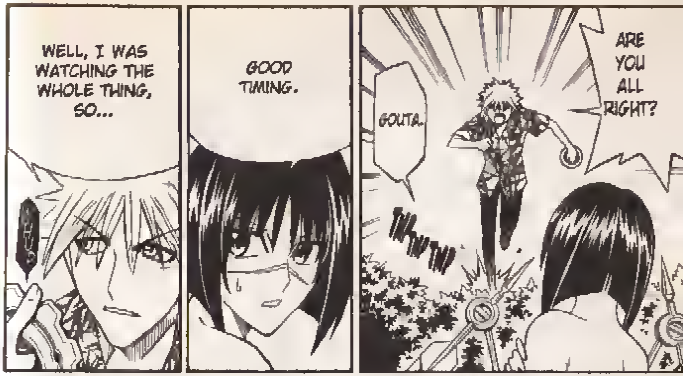
AAAAAAARGH!!

GA
GK
AHH....

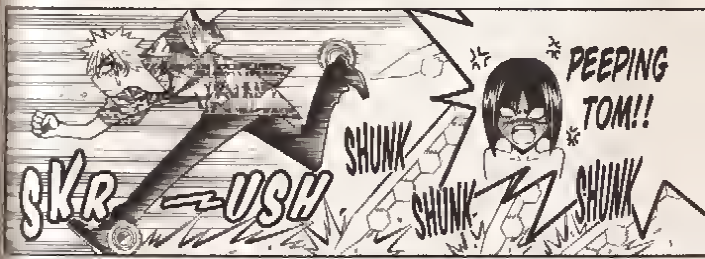
READ THIS WAY
BINK
FRESH
THP
THP
SPLASH
SPLASH

FWA
SH
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
SHWO
HAAH!
OSH
JWM
JWM
JWM
SHOOT-HE'S NOT BACK YET
SWIP
GOZEN?
GOZEN, BAG!

READ THIS WAY
!
DEBU
TOKIKO!
... PEEPING TOM!
WOOSH
WHY YOU...
HISH
SHWA


WELL, I WAS WATCHING THE WHOLE THING, SO...
GOOD TIMING.
GOUTA.
WWW
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DING
...
YOU WERE WATCHING?

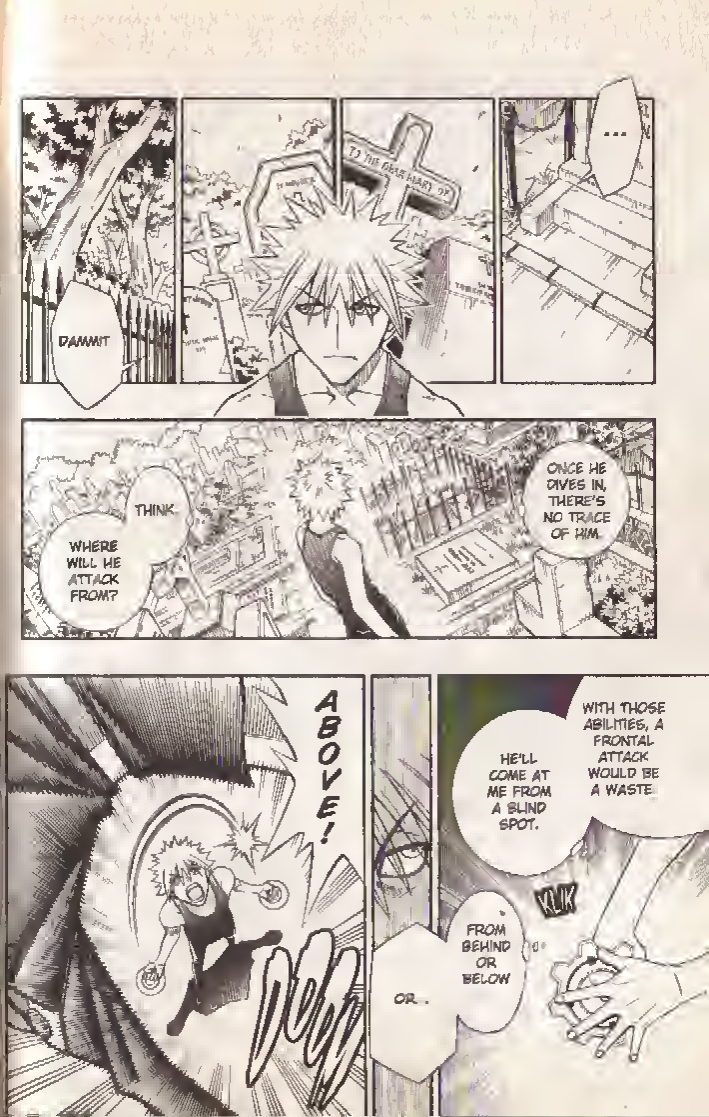

SKR
USH
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
PEEPING TOM!!

SWUF

WHOA!
WHUP
WOOSH
UNGH!
WHA
WHA
SWUFF

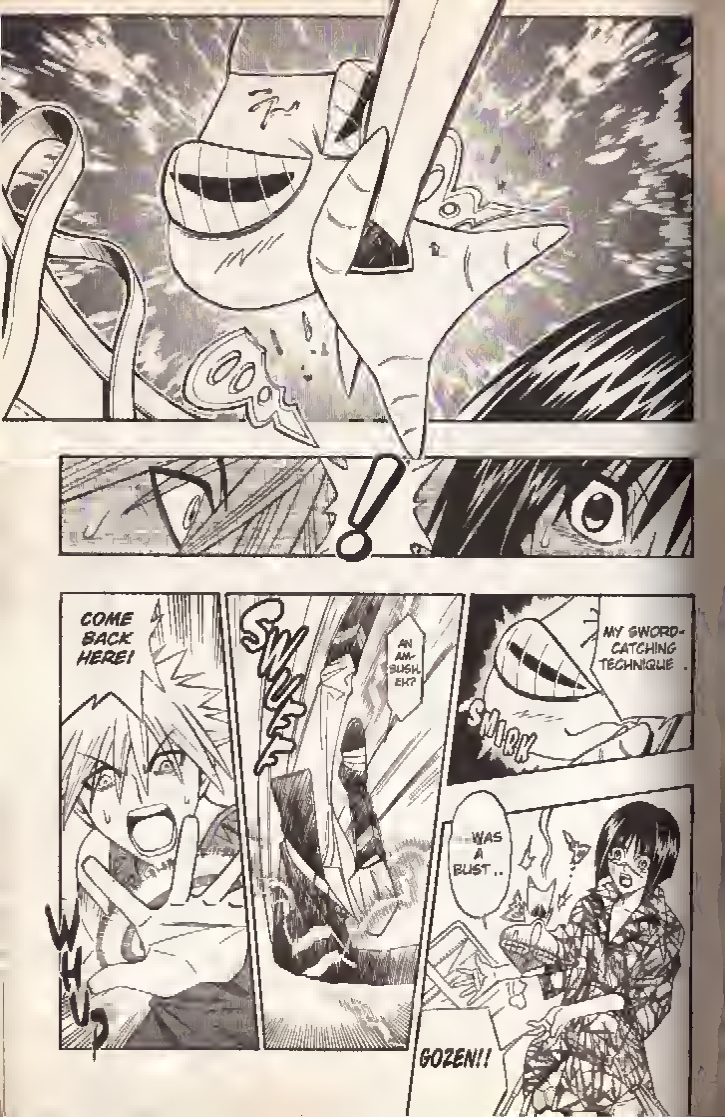
SWP
SWP
SWP
WHERE WERE YOU AIMING?
I CAN ENTER ANY OBJECT THAT I CUT WITH THIS SWORD.
BUSO RENKIN OF THE NINJA SWORD— SECRET TRAIL.
FWUP
!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GOUTA?!

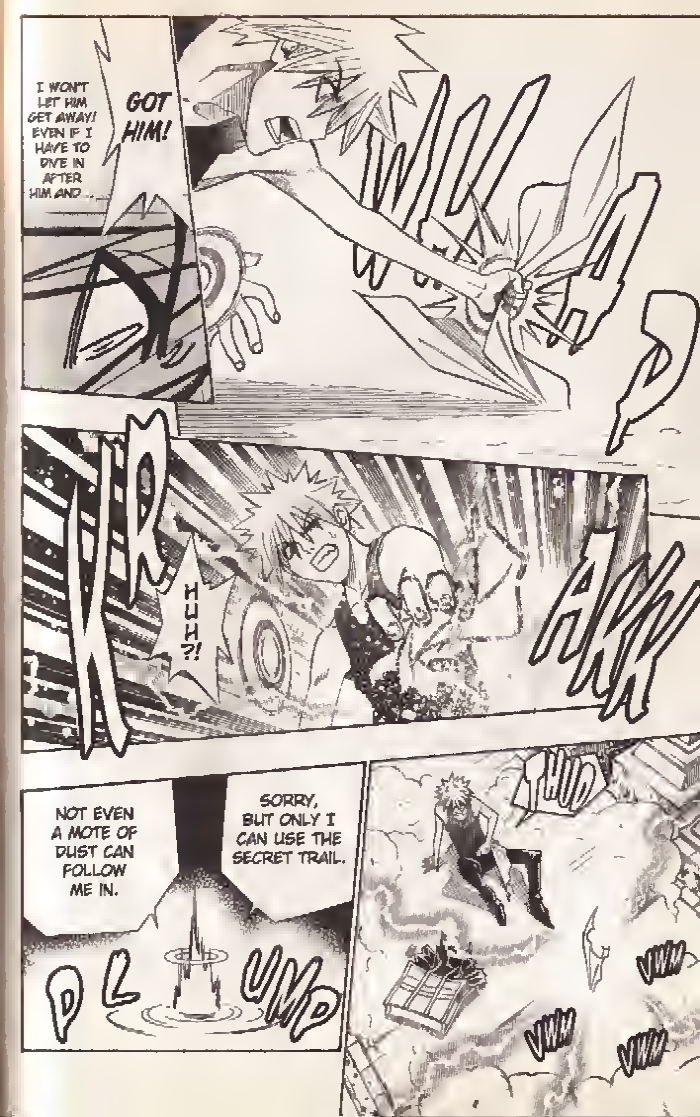
...HANDLE THIS GUY.
LET ME...
...MAKES MY JOB THAT MUCH EASIER.
PLUMP
TAKING OUT TARGETS ONE AT A TIME...
VERY WELL.
YOU WANT TO FIGHT FOR THE GIRL?
SWF SWF
WOOO

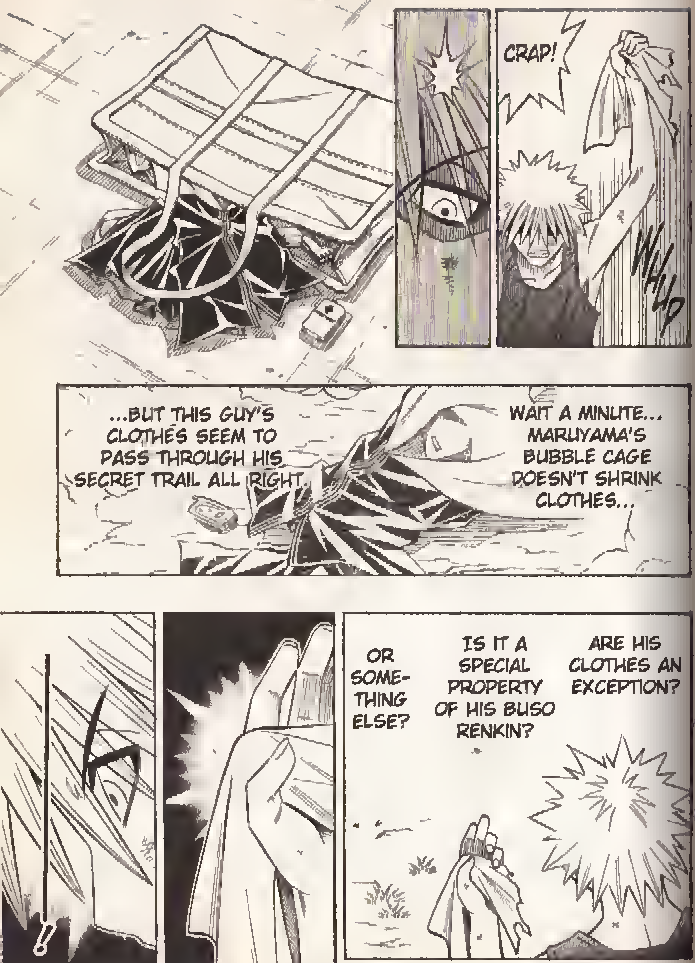

DAMMIT
...
THINK.
WHERE WILL HE ATTACK FROM?
ONCE HE DIVES IN, THERE'S NO TRACE OF HIM.
WITH THOSE ABILITIES, A FRONTAL ATTACK WOULD BE A WASTE.
HE'LL COME AT ME FROM A BLIND SPOT.
VUK
FROM BEHIND OR BELOW
OR..
ABOVE!
DUH

KNUCKLE DUSTER MODE!!
MOTOR GEARS!!
WRRR!
BOOM
THEN WHERE IS HE?
BEHIND ME? UNDER ME? OR...
THWOMP
A DECOY?!
FWUP
?!
NO!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

VWM
VWM
VWM
VWM
ABOVE YOU!!
TOKI-KO!!
SPLAT


!
COME BACK HERE!
WHU?
SWUEF
AN AMBUSH, EH?
MY SWORD-CATCHING TECHNIQUE
SWISH
..WAS A BUST..
GOZEN!!


I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIVE IN AFTER HIM AND...
GOT HIM!
WILL
HUH?!
AKK
NOT EVEN A MOTE OF DUST CAN FOLLOW ME IN.
SORRY, BUT ONLY I CAN USE THE SECRET TRAIL.
PLUMP
THUD
VVVV
VVVV
VVVV


CRAP!
WHIP
...BUT THIS GUY'S CLOTHES SEEM TO PASS THROUGH HIS SECRET TRAIL ALL RIGHT.
WAIT A MINUTE... MARUYAMA'S BUBBLE CAGE DOESN'T SHRINK CLOTHES...
!
OR SOME-THING ELSE?
IS IT A SPECIAL PROPERTY OF HIS BUSO RENKIN?
ARE HIS CLOTHES AN EXCEPTION?

I'M NOT A PHONY OR A DOLL!!
HEY, PHONY KEWPIE DOLL!
GEEZ... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAVE YOU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
THAT WAS NO COMPLIMENT, YOU IDIOT!
BUT AREN'T YOU SHARING YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS WITH OUKA?
I'M GRATEFUL. THAT WAS VERY MANLY OF YOU.
KEEP GOING AFTER TOKIKO?
WHY DO YOU...
AS FOR YOU!

IF THAT'S YOUR DECISION, FINE
BUT I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DUEL.
VWM
VWM
STUPID QUESTION.
YOU SAID YOU'D PROTECT THE WOMAN AND FIGHT ME.
VWM
I'M HERE TO ACCOMPLISH MY MISSION.
...I'LL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY!
AND TO DO THAT...
...TO TAKE YOU DOWN!!
DOOM
NOW I'LL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY...
YOU WENT AFTER TOKIKO TWICE
SO WILL I.
WRR

- Height: 182 cm; Weight: 65 kg
Born. April 4, Aries, Blood Type: AB; Age. 23
Likes: Day spas, make-up, men
Dislikes: Cleaning the toilet, taking out the trash, women
Hobby: Collecting balloons
Special Ability: The ability to draw a perfect circle without using a compass
Affiliations. Alchemist Army, Re-Extermineuon Squad

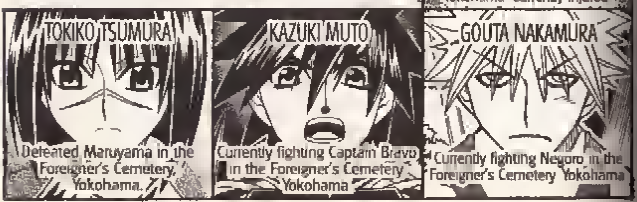
Character File No. 30

MADOKA MARUYAMA

Author's Notes

- In the beginning, I drew this character just to fill out the squad.
- When I got complaints that there were no good-looking guys in the Re-Extermination Squad, I redesigned this character right away.
But he didn't seem quite right so I made him a little psychotic.
- That might've been hard to pull off in a weekly boy's magazine, so I made him kind of wimpy instead.
- As I went along, the character began to develop a personality, but I don't think this story was such a good vehicle for him.
- I wanted him to look a bit androgynous. If he'd shut up for a few minutes so that I could draw him carefully, he might've looked quite handsome.

CHAPTER 68:
MEANWHILE

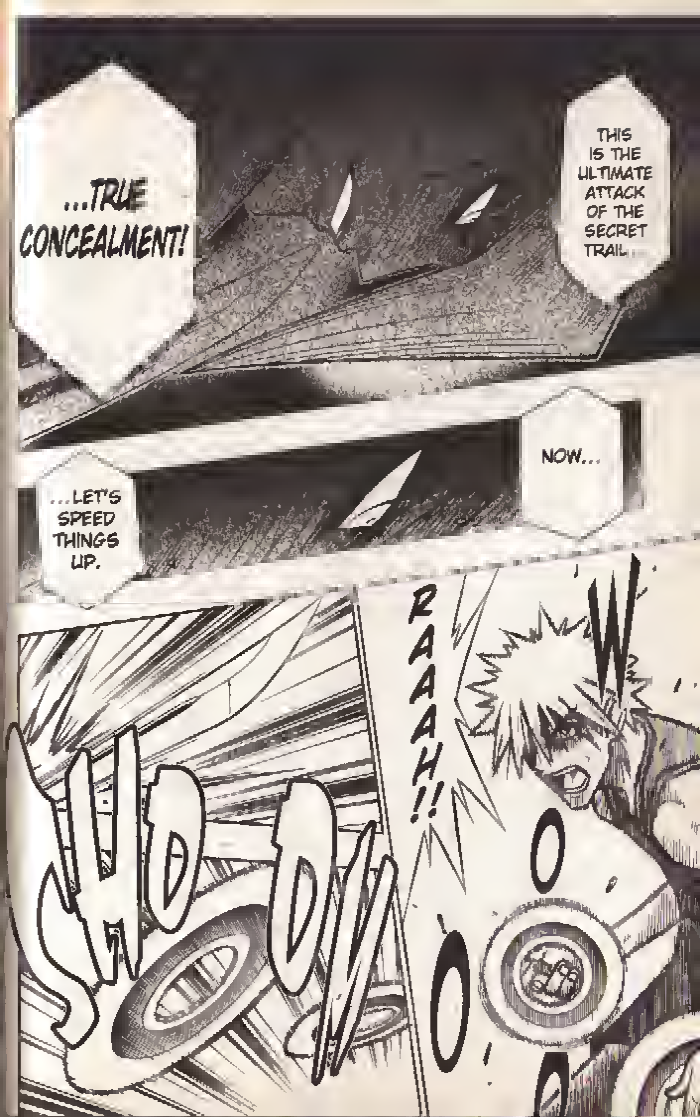

TOKIKO TSUMURA
Defeated Maruyama in the Foreigner's Cemetery, Yokohama
KAZUKI MUTO
Currently fighting Captain Bravo in the Foreigner's Cemetery Yokohama
GOUTA NAKAMURA
Currently fighting Negoro in the Foreigner's Cemetery Yokohama

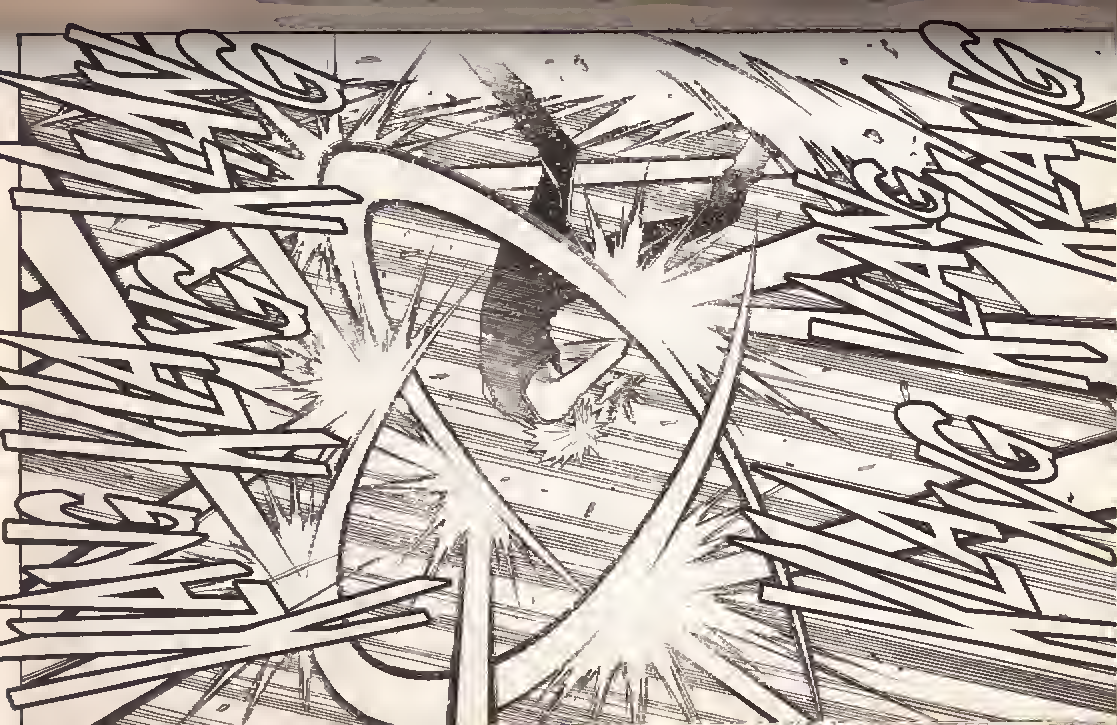
SWUFF
WHAP
WOOOO
BRING IT!
THE NEXT TIME YOU SHOW YOURSELF, YOU'RE SUSHI!!
HERE I COME ...

I THINK...
...GOUTA HAS A PLAN.
IS THAT DROOPY-EYED KID GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT ON HIS OWN?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD HELP HIM OUT.
THAT FORCES GOUTA TO USE THE CHAKRAM IN INGENIOUS WAYS.
WRRK
THE MOTOR GEARS ARE A RELATIVELY WEAK BUSO RENKIN.
...HE'S FORMIDABLE.
AND ONCE THE OTHER GEARS— THE ONES INSIDE HIS HEAD— START TO TURN...

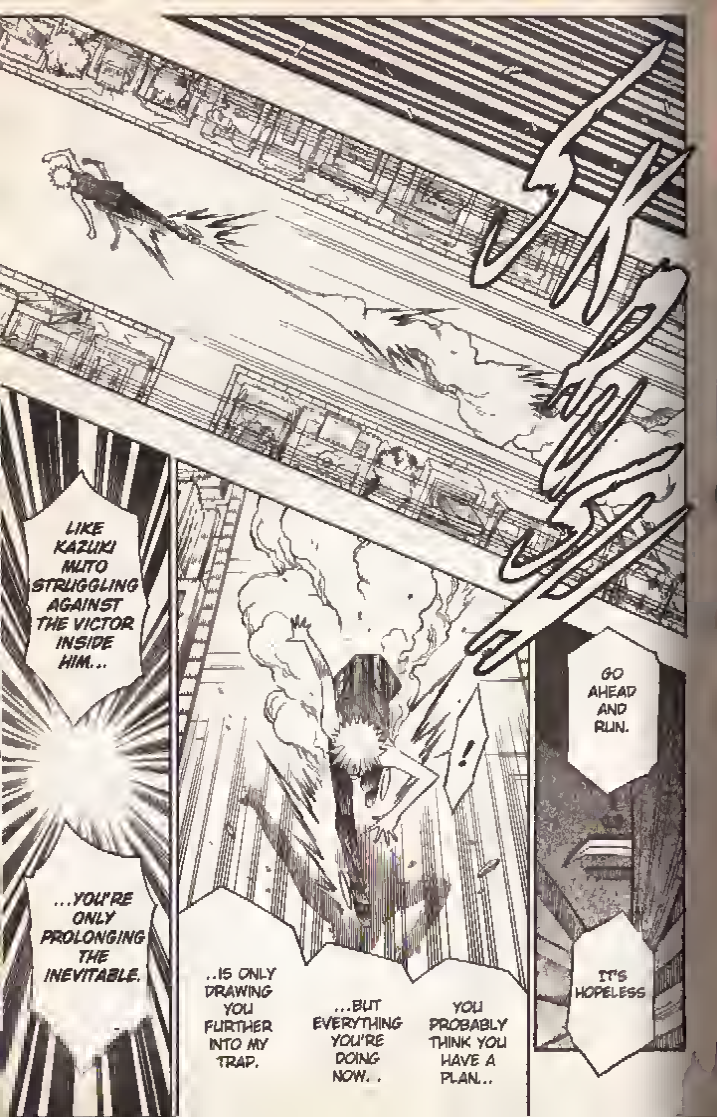
THERE!
SWUNK
IT'S JUST THE SWORD!
!

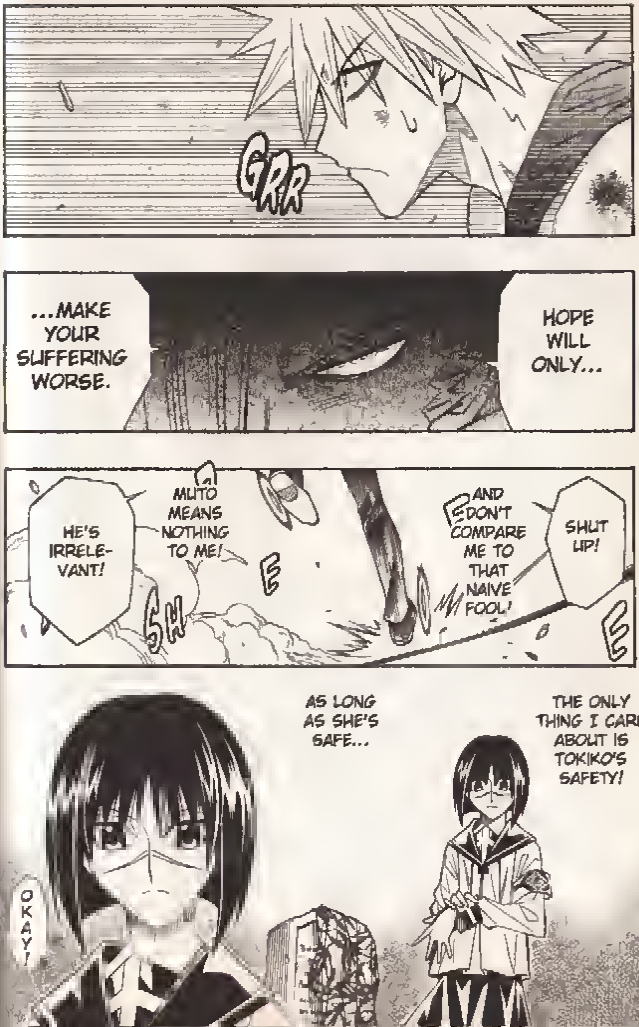
KLANG
HMPH!
THROWING YOUR SWORD?
PLUMP
WOOOO
IT'S AN ATTACK FROM NOWHERE...
...FROM A DIMENSION YOU CAN'T ENTER.
AND SINCE YOU CAN'T COUNTER-ATTACK..
..YOU'RE STUCK ON THE DEFENSIVE..
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

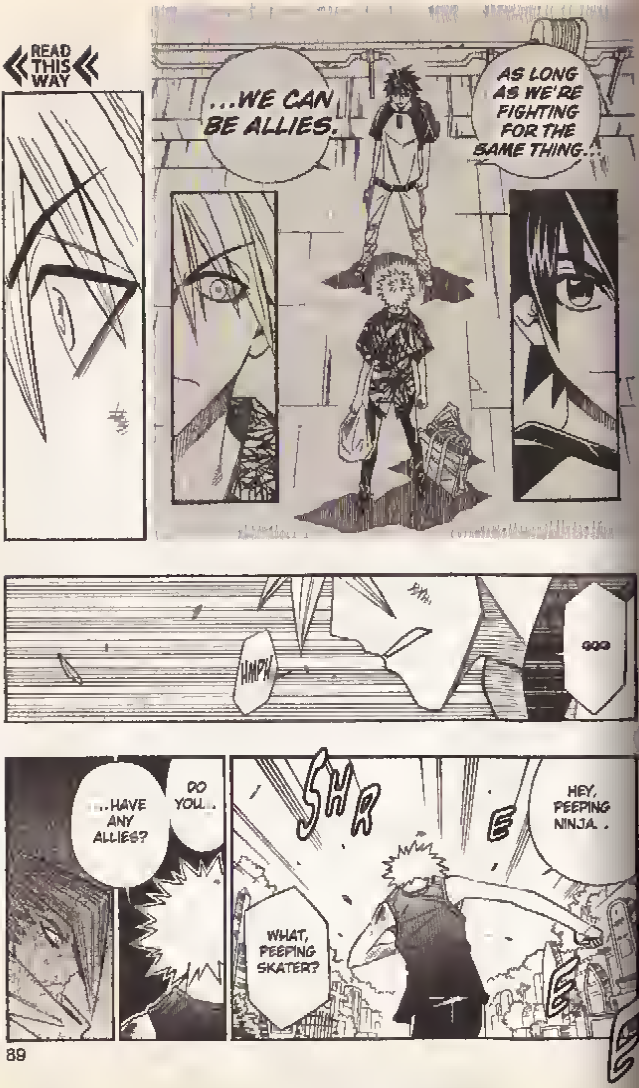

...TRUE CONCEALMENT!
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE ATTACK OF THE SECRET TRAIL...
...LET'S SPEED THINGS UP.
NOW...
SHOOM
RAAAH!!
WOOO


THE WEAPON
THE WEAPON

SHUK
SHUK
!
DUCK! WEAVE! RUN!
IF YOU STAND STILL, YOU'LL BE SHREDDED!
CHAK
CHAK
SKY WALKER MODE!!
MOTOR GEARS
ON


KNOCK
GO AHEAD AND RUN.
IT'S HOPELESS
YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU HAVE A PLAN..
...BUT EVERYTHING YOU'RE DOING NOW. .
..IS ONLY DRAWING YOU FURTHER INTO MY TRAP.
LIKE KAZUKI MUTO STRUGGLING AGAINST THE VICTOR INSIDE HIM...
...YOU'RE ONLY PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE.

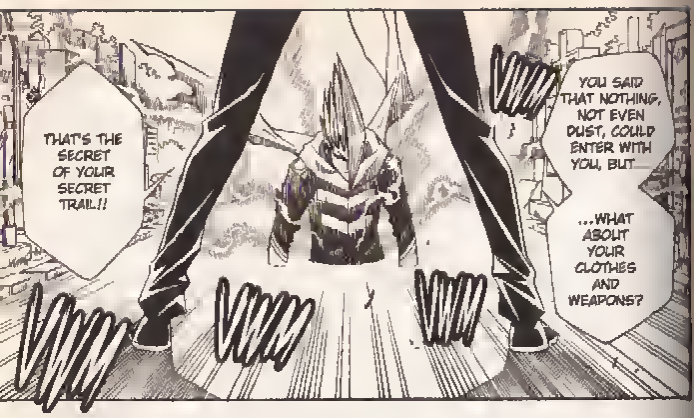

GRR
...MAKE YOUR SUFFERING WORSE.
HOPE WILL ONLY...
HE'S IRRELE-VANT!
MUTO MEANS NOTHING TO ME!
AND DON'T COMPARE ME TO THAT NAIVE FOOL!
SHUT UP!
AS LONG AS SHE'S SAFE...
THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS TOKIKO'S SAFETY!
OKAY!

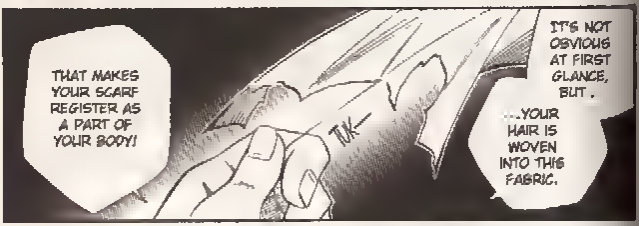

READ THIS WAY
...WE CAN BE ALLIES.
AS LONG AS WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THE SAME THING...
HMPH!
PYH!
QQQ
..HAVE ANY ALLIES?
DO YOU..
SHR
E
E
E
HEY, PEEPING NINJA..
WHAT, PEEPING SKATER?

SW
UP
MAYBE
BUT I DON'T NEED THEIR HELP.
HEH
I'M DEADLY ...
...ALL BY MYSELF.
GO ON, RUN. KEEP LOOKING AROUND. THESE THINGS WILL JUST MAKE YOUR REACTIONS SLOWER!
YOU'RE MINE!
GRAAAAAAH!!
MOTOR GEARS ...
LAUNCH!

UNH!
WHAT?!
SHOOM
SHLUK
GAH!

W O O O O
BUT MY ATTACK DID MORE DAMAGE THAN YOURS DID!
MY NEXT MOVE...
YOU ARE TENACIOUS!
SHUNK
YOUR SCARF GAVE YOU AWAY.
...WILL FINISH YOU.
HUFF
KRK
HUFF
MY NEXT MOVE ...


THAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR SECRET TRAIL!!
YOU SAID THAT NOTHING, NOT EVEN DUST, COULD ENTER WITH YOU, BUT...
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES AND WEAPONS?


THAT MAKES YOUR SCARF REGISTER AS A PART OF YOUR BODY!
TAK
IT'S NOT OBVIOUS AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT...
...YOUR HAIR IS WOVEN INTO THIS FABRIC.

WHIP
BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.
YOU STILL CAN'T FOLLOW ME...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M IMPRESSED
...IS YOUR DNA!
SO THE KEY TO ENTERING YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE...

NO!!
!
VOO
VOO
SHOOM
SWUL
SWUL
PLUNG
YOUR BLOOD'S ALL OVER MY MOTOR GEARS.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

READ THIS WAY
GOUTA!
I'M DEADLY ALL BY MYSELF TOO.
GWAAH!!
BLOOSH
DID YOU BEAT HIM?
WHERE IS HE?
LET'S HURRY.
BUT WHAT'S-HIS-FACE IS PROBABLY HAVING A HARD TIME, SO...
I BEAT HIM. NO PROBLEM.
WE BOTH WANT TO PROTECT THE SAME PERSON, FOR NOW...

"You're going to shrink away to nothing."♡

Buso Renkin File No. 15

バブル ケイジ

BUBBLE CAGE

- Kakugane Senal Number: XXXII (32)
- Creator: Madoka Maruyama
- Form: Floating Mine (Balloon Bombs)
- Main Colors: Purple and Pink
- Special Abilities: The balloon bombs shrink whatever they hit by six inches.
- Special Traits: Able to position the balloons, albeit slowly, to surround the enemy
  Able to over-inflate and burst a balloon at will as well as creating a gust of wind to propel the balloons toward the target. Only one balloon can be over-inflated at a time
  Able to take to the air with the help of the balloons, but then he is at the mercy of the prevailing winds. Although they can be heard to say "Hee," the balloon mines are not sentient

- Author's Notes:

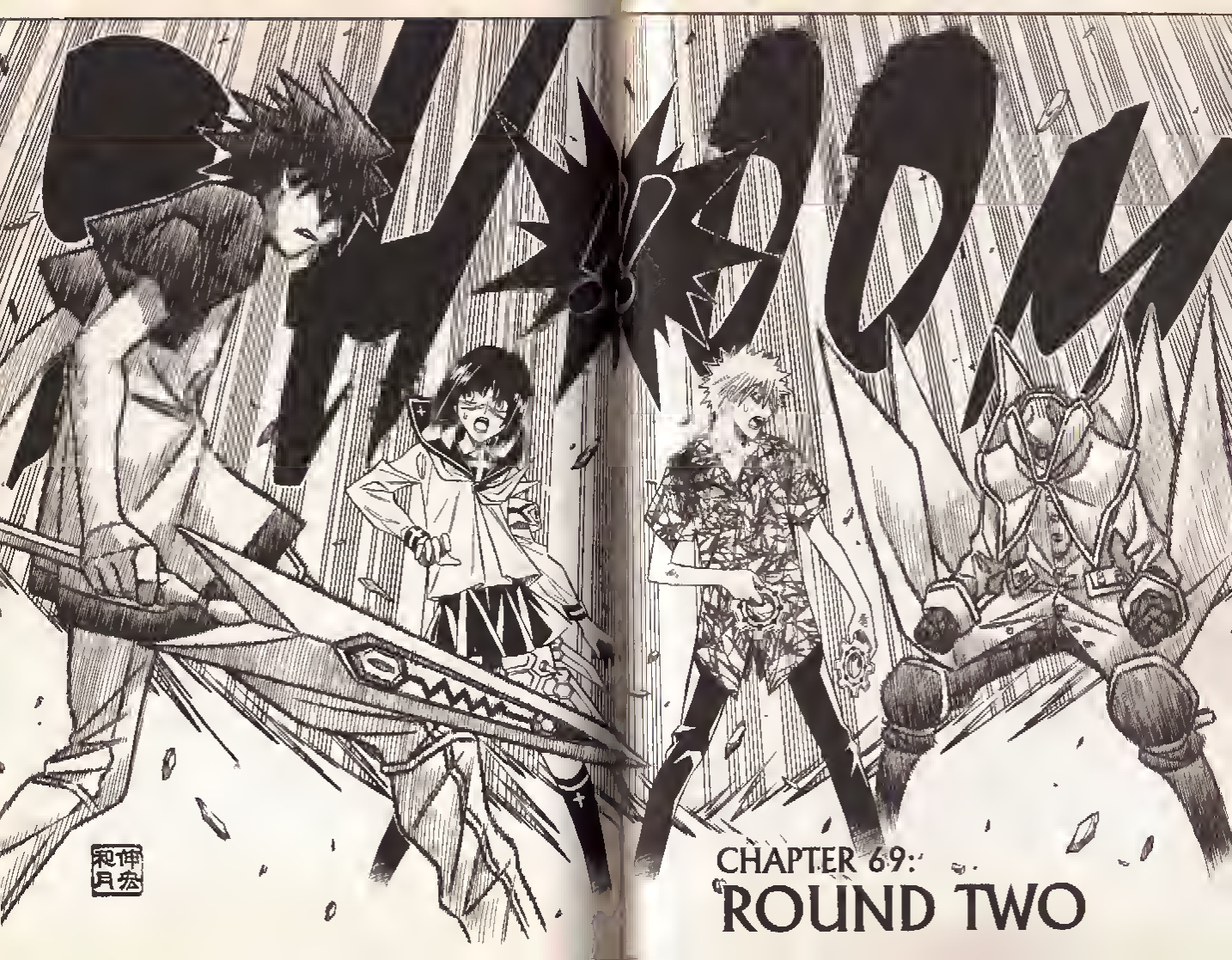
The design of this Buso Renkin was pretty simple. When I redesigned Maruyama I used the original design for his head for the balloons. I really liked the way all those weird, smiling, round faces fill the panels. It worked well.

I wanted to create a Buso Renkin that wouldn't cause any physical damage but would still diminish the target's ability to fight. Finally I decided that shrinking would be a good way to do that. The mini-Tokiko was a big hit with the fans, but I have to admit that this Buso Renkin's poor mobility made it hard to work with.

It might've been more interesting to use the Balloon Cage inside the school or the dormitory. Then again, that might've turned this manga into some kind of school-love-comedy-super-powers thing.

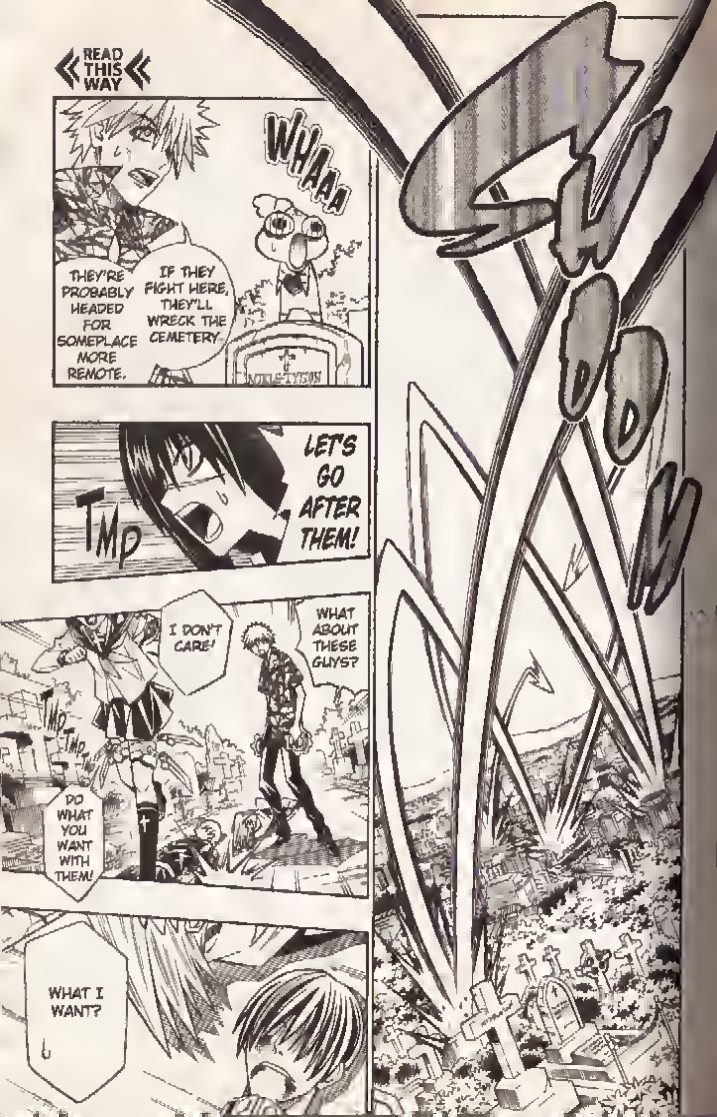
Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン
8
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Story & Art by
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

READ THIS WAY
CHAPTER 69 ROUND TWO
...AROUND MY HAND LIKE SO..
TUD
BY WRAPPING HIS SCARF..
TWO UK
HM..
MMM..
KAZUKI'S...
I GOT MY MOTOR GEARS BACK!
SW
HA!!
UP
WELL, WE'VE DONE OUR PART

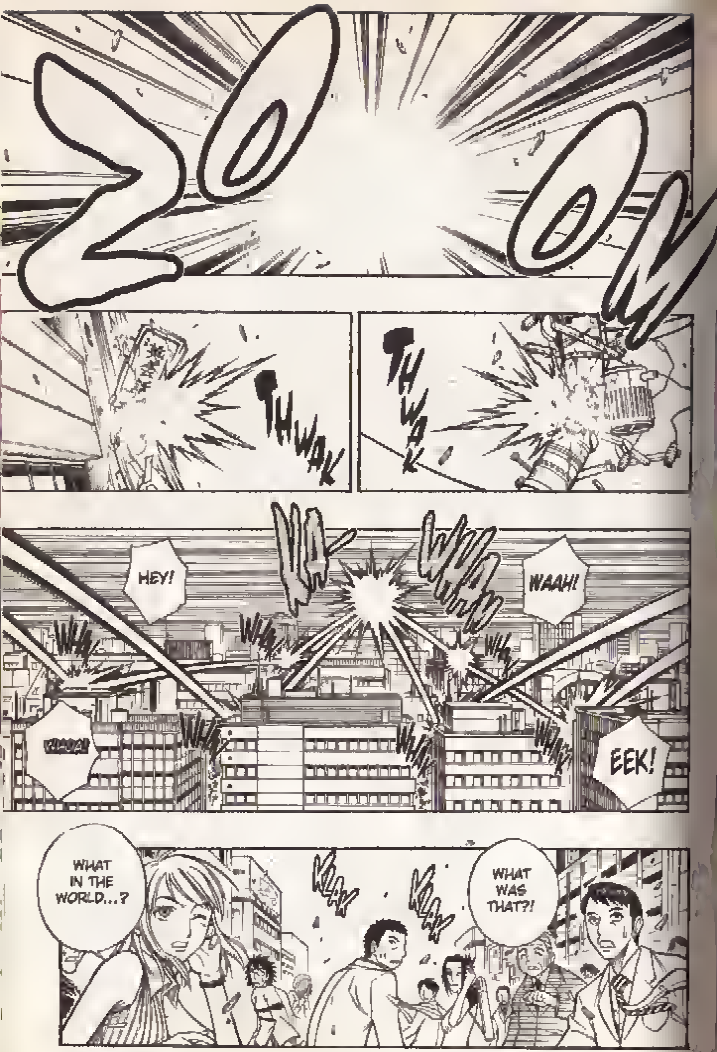


CHAPTER 69: ROUND TWO

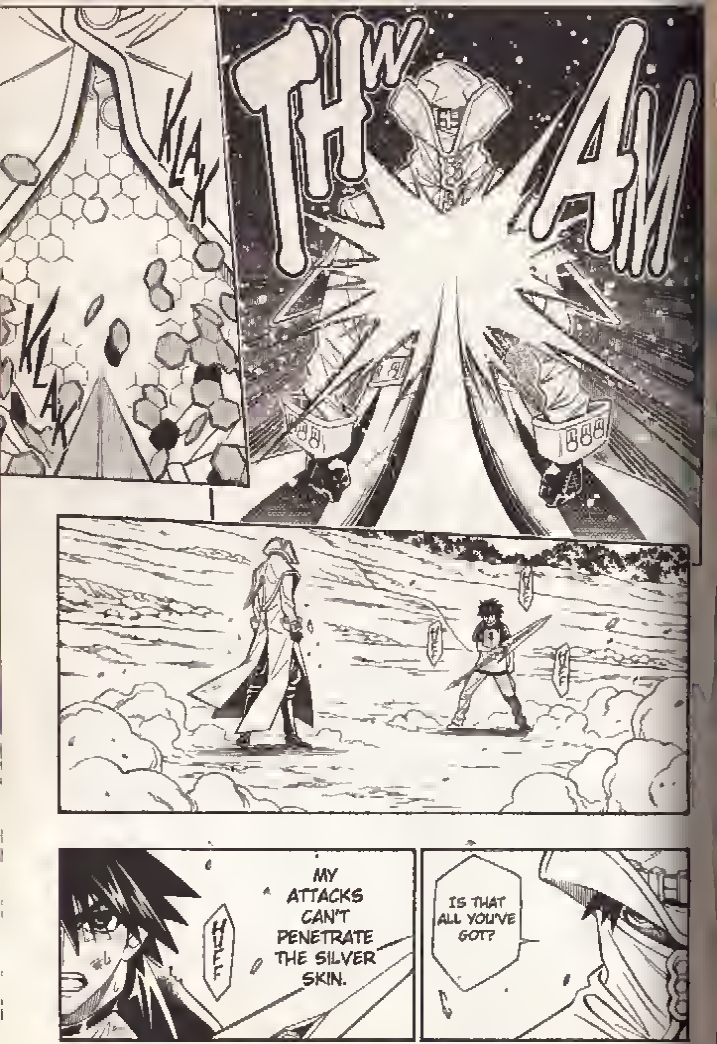
KAZUKI!!
CAPTAIN BRAVO!!
WOOOOOOOOO
!
WHOA


READ THIS WAY
WHAAA
THEY'RE PROBABLY HEADED FOR SOMEPLACE MORE REMOTE.
IF THEY FIGHT HERE, THEY'LL WRECK THE CEMETERY
TMP
LET'S GO AFTER THEM!
I DON'T CARE!
WHAT ABOUT THESE GUYS?
TMP
TMP
DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THEM!
WHAT I WANT?

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
NO.
YEAH, THEY DID TRY TO KILL US.
SERVES 'EM RIGHT IF THEY BUY THE FARM
WHY NOT JUST TAKE THEIR KAKUGANE AND LET LUCK DECIDE IF THEY SURVIVE OR NOT?
BUT KAZUKI WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
YEAH. I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP WITH TOKIKO.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THE KAKUGANE?
WHAT IF THEY ATTACK AGAIN?
IF THEY COME AFTER TOKIKO AGAIN, I'LL BURY THEM!
I'M GONNA LET YOU GUYS GO THIS TIME.
YOU CAN THANK THAT NAIVE IDIOT.


ZOOM
THWAK
THWAK
HEY!
WAAH!
EEK!
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
WHAT WAS THAT?!

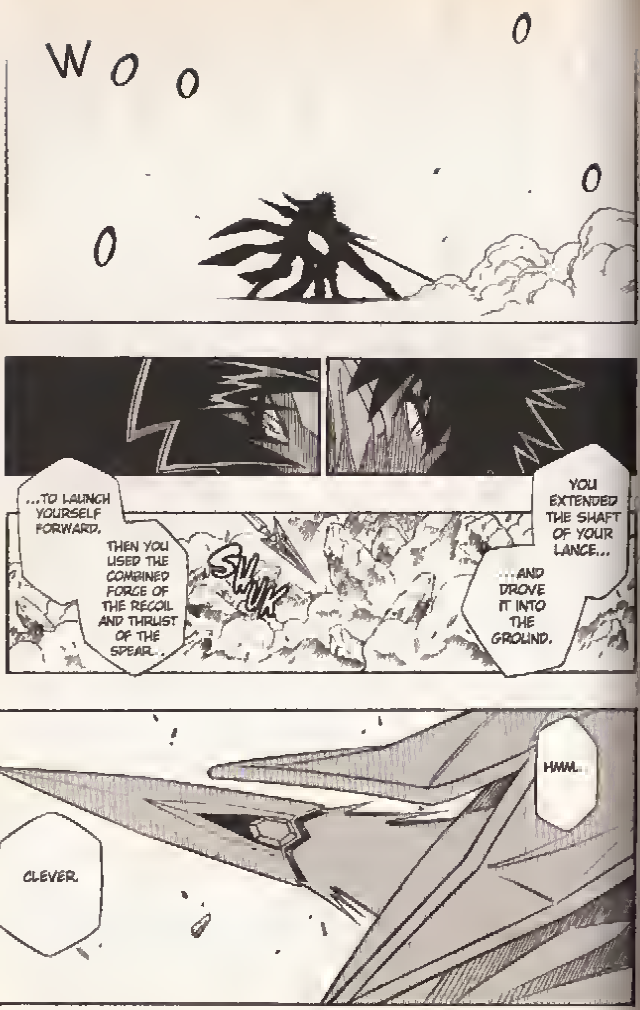
GREEN HILL
SHIN-MIYAMOTO NEW TOWN
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 2005
DAIDAI CONSTRUCTION
WHAM
WHAM
WOOSH
HYAH!!


KLAK
KLAK
THW
AM
HUFF
MY ATTACKS CAN'T PENETRATE THE SILVER SKIN.
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

...I CAN'T DEFEAT BRAVO!!
IF I CAN'T BREAK THROUGH
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
I ASSUME YOU BROUGHT ME OUT HERE FOR A REASON, SO...
...

VROOSH

KA
GRAAAH!!
SHWK

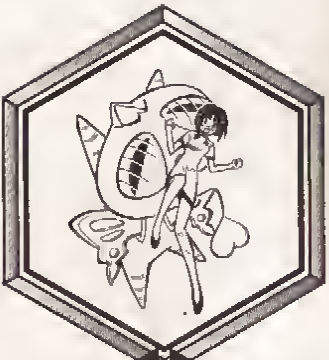

Woo
O
O
O
...TO LAUNCH YOURSELF FORWARD,
THEN YOU USED THE COMBINED FORCE OF THE RECOIL AND THRUST OF THE SPEAR...
SWWK
YOU EXTENDED THE SHAFT OF YOUR LANCE...
...AND DROVE IT INTO THE GROUND.
CLEVER.
HMM...

HOW-EVER ...
AW
GACK
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

CHUNK
DOOM
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...
...YOU'RE STRONGER.
EVERY TIME WE FIGHT...
HUFF
HUFF
YOU AMAZE ME.
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU...

THAT'S WHY -
...I'M NOT SURE I COULD BLOCK IT.
THAT LAST CHARGING ATTACK WAS ESPECIALLY LETHAL IF YOU WERE TO DO IT AGAIN ..
TUP
IT'S COMING! THE DOUBLE SILVER SKIN!!
...RIGHT NOW!!
FWISH
...I HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN ...
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THEIR FOOTPRINTS! COME ON!

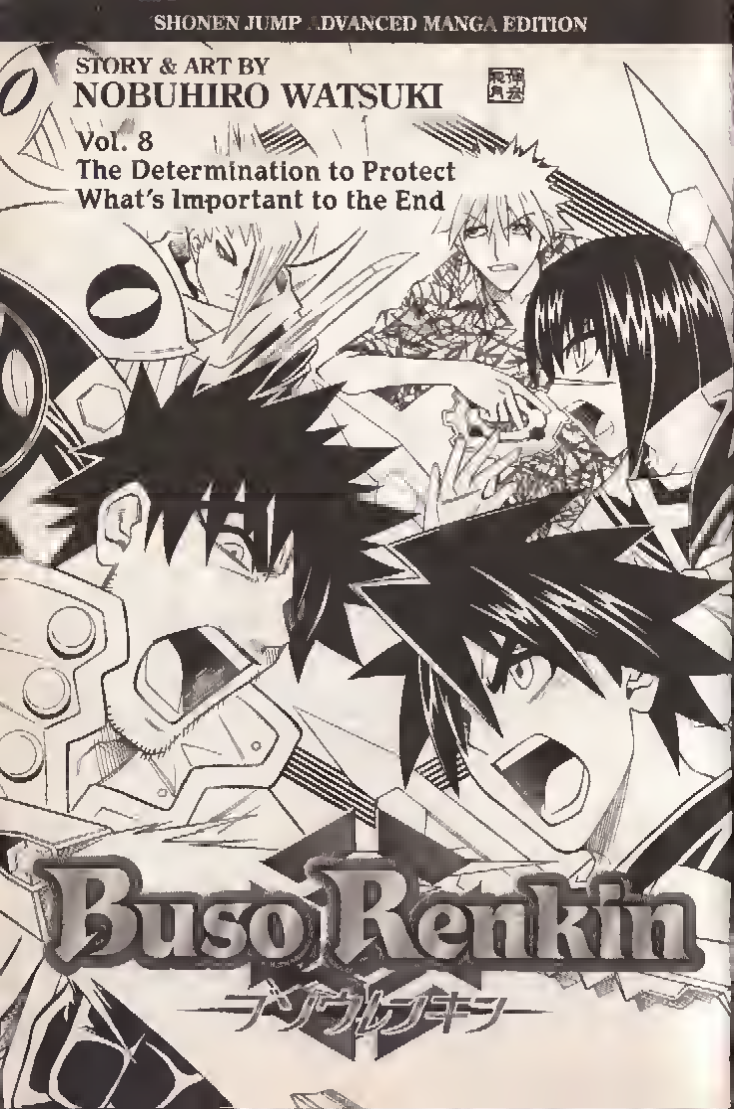
WHAT NOW?!
WUZZ
WUZZ
WHAT IS THAT?
I MEAN, WE'D HAVE TO DEFEAT CAPTAIN BRAVO THERE'S JUST NO WAY WE—
YES WE CAN!
...CONSIDERING WHO'S DOING THE FIGHTING...
...I DON'T THINK THERE'S A WHOLE LOT THAT WE CAN DO.
THOOOOOM
YOU KNOW...
IF WE CAN REACH THEM IN TIME...
...KAZUKI STILL HAS A CHANCE!!


Buso Renkin

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA EDITION

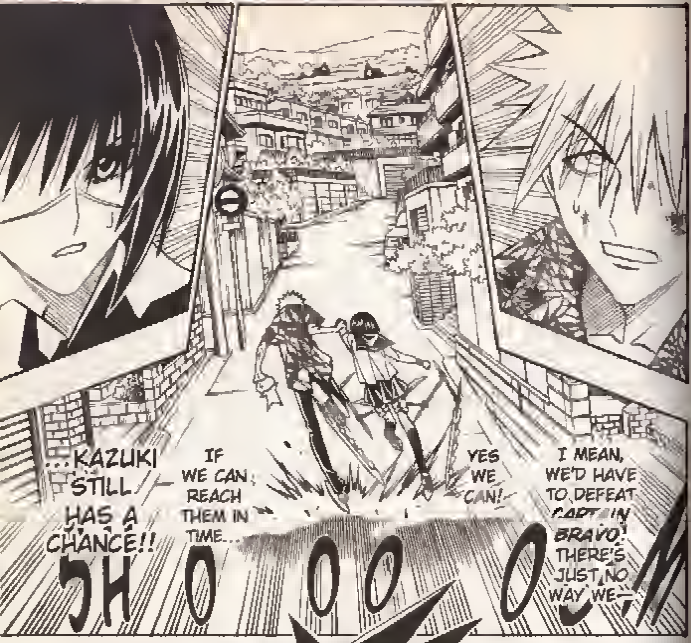
STORY & ART BY
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

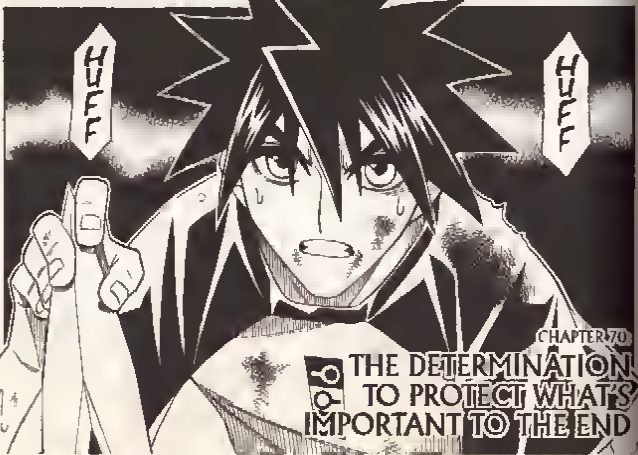
Vol. 8
The Determination to Protect
What's Important to the End



Buso Renkin

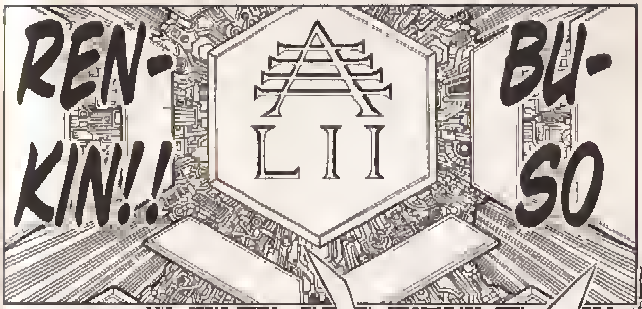
武装錬金


...KAZUKI STILL HAS A CHANCE!!
IF WE CAN REACH THEM IN TIME...
YES WE CAN!
I MEAN, WE'D HAVE TO DEFEAT CAPTAIN BRAVO! THERE'S JUST NO WAY WE--
OH



CHAPTER 70

06 THE DETERMINATION TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE END



CHAPTER 70: THE DETERMINATION TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE END

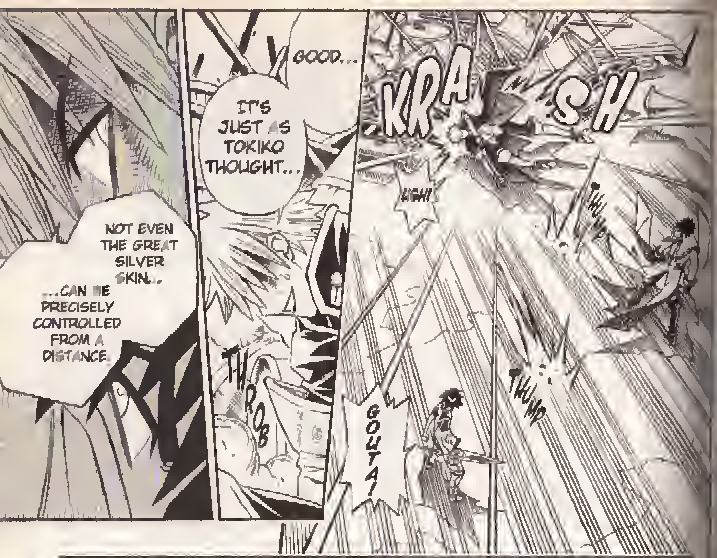
神宮和月

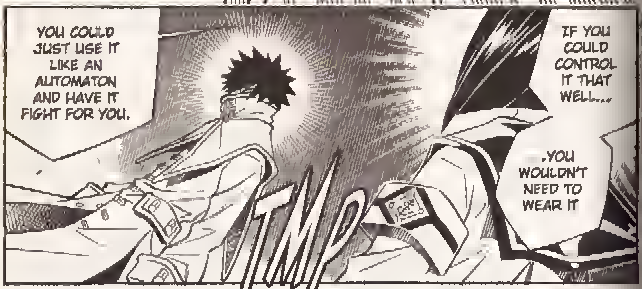
WOOO
!!
I DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN, DO I?
BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE ANY REGRETS.
I'M PUTTING AN END TO THIS.
IT COMPLETELY IMPRISONS THE PERSON IT COVERS LIKE AN UNBREAKABLE STRAITJACKET.
CAPTAIN BRAVO'S ULTIMATE ATTACK.
THE SILVER SKIN REVERSE ...
HUFF
HUFF

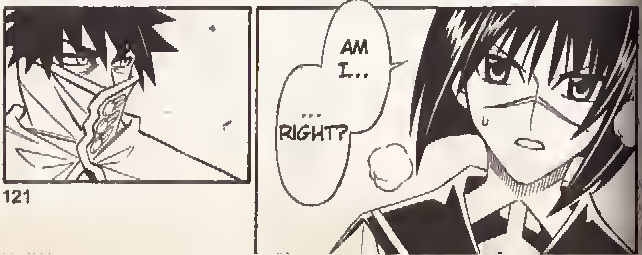
...WITH EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!!
SO COME AT ME...
!!
EVEN THE VICTOR ENERGY-DRAIN...
EVERY-THING...

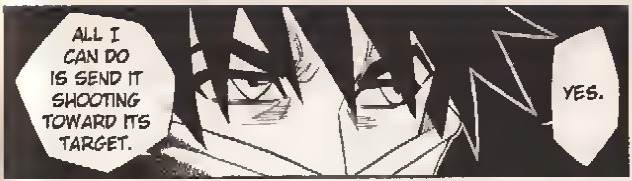
HERE I COME!!
SMACK

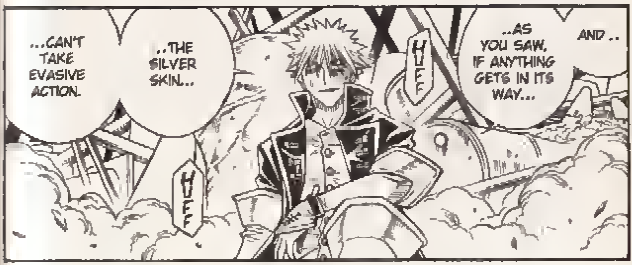
WHOA!!
WA-
WA-
THUMP
HWAP

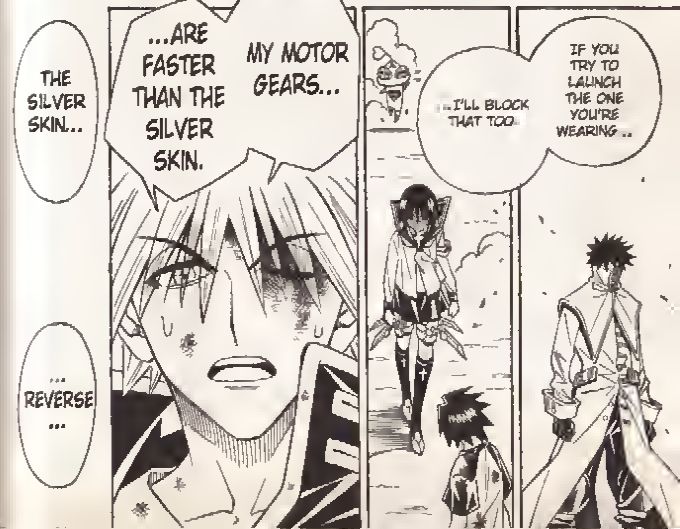

NOT EVEN THE GREAT SILVER SKIN...
...CAN BE PRECISELY CONTROLLED FROM A DISTANCE.
GOOD...
IT'S JUST AS TOKIKO THOUGHT...
THROB
KRA
SH
LIGHT
GOUTA!
THUMP


YOU COULD JUST USE IT LIKE AN AUTOMATON AND HAVE IT FIGHT FOR YOU.
IF YOU COULD CONTROL IT THAT WELL...
...YOU WOULDN'T NEED TO WEAR IT
TMP


AM I...
...RIGHT?

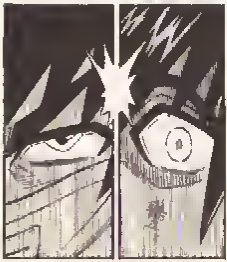

ALL I CAN DO IS SEND IT SHOOTING TOWARD ITS TARGET.
YES.


...CAN'T TAKE EVASIVE ACTION.
..THE SILVER SKIN..
HUFF
HUFF
..AS YOU SAW, IF ANYTHING GETS IN ITS WAY...
AND ..


THE SILVER SKIN..
...ARE FASTER THAN THE SILVER SKIN.
MY MOTOR GEARS...
..I'LL BLOCK THAT TOO.
IF YOU TRY TO LAUNCH THE ONE YOU'RE WEARING ..
... REVERSE ...

...EFFECTIVE.
...IS NO LONGER...

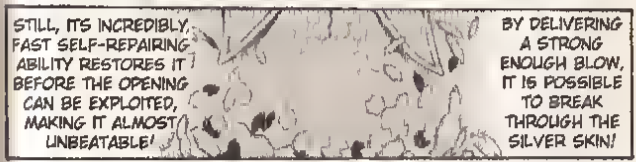
KAZUKI!
!
AND NOW..

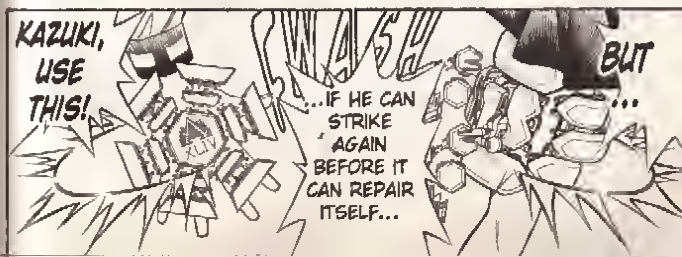


WE'RE GOING TO DEFEAT THE SILVER SKIN!
LET'S GO!

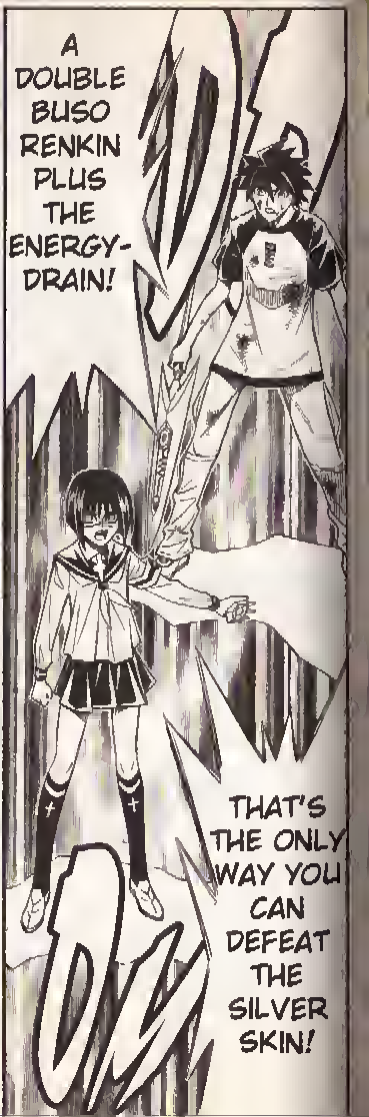
BUSO: RENKIN OF THE METAL JACKET...
...SILVER SKIN!

...ONCE WHEN HE WAS BEING EVALUATED AS A WARRIOR AND THE SECOND TIME DURING THE BATTLE AT THE BEACH... KAZUKI HAS MANAGED TO PIERCE IT
BUT TWICE NOW
IT'S VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE
IT HAS THE GREATEST DEFENSIVE ABILITIES OF ANY BUSO RENKIN


STILL, IT'S INCREDIBLY FAST SELF-REPAIRING ABILITY RESTORES IT BEFORE THE OPENING CAN BE EXPLOITED, MAKING IT ALMOST UNBEATABLE!
BY DELIVERING A STRONG ENOUGH BLOW, IT IS POSSIBLE TO BREAK THROUGH THE SILVER SKIN!


KAZUKI, USE THIS!
...IF HE CAN STRIKE AGAIN BEFORE IT CAN REPAIR ITSELF...
BUT ...

THEY HAVE THE DETERMINATION TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE END.

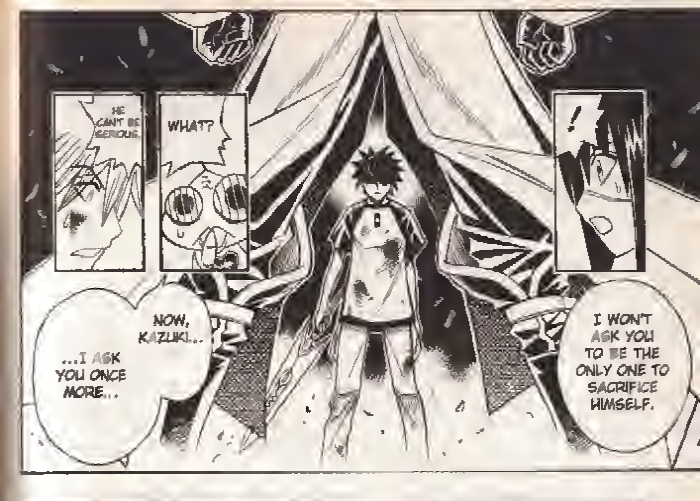


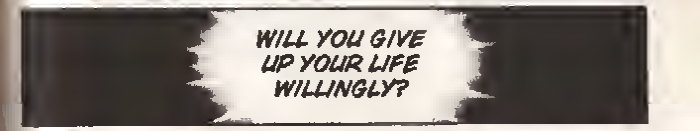
CHANGE INTO A VICTOR, KAZUKI!!
WHOOP
NO.
IT COULD KILL YOU..
AND GOUTA AND GOZEN AS WELL
IF I DO, THE ENERGY-DRAIN WILL ENGAGE.
IT WON'T BE LIKE THE TIME AT GINSEI ACADEMY WHERE THERE WERE LOTS OF PEOPLE AROUND

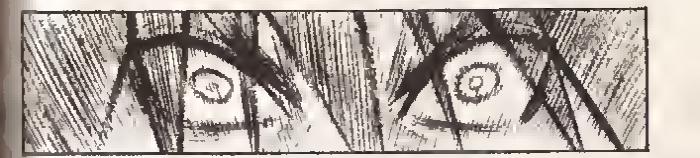
READ THIS WAY
IF IT GETS BAD FOR ME, MY AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF SYSTEM WILL KICK IN
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
I WANT WHATEVER TOKIKO WANTS.
SAME FOR ME.
ARE YOU PASSING UP YOUR ONE CHANCE TO WIN?
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME. JUST DO IT!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I CAN'T DO IT...
KRK
...BUT...
I'M SORRY...
THAT'S WHY I BECAME AN ALCHEMIST WARRIOR IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...NOT ENDANGER THEM.
I WANT TO PROTECT PEOPLE...
...I WON'T INJURE MY FRIENDS.
SO...
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO LOSE THIS BATTLE...

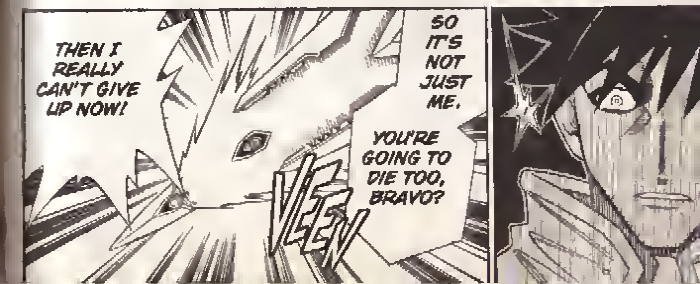
...MY FINAL DECISION.
THAT'S ...
GRT
DO YOU STILL INTEND...
...TO KILL KAZUKI?
WARRIOR CHIEF...
ANSWER ME, WARRIOR CHIEF!
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE SEEN AND HEARD, WOULD YOU STILL EXTINGUISH OUR ONLY HOPE?

...CAPTAIN BRAVO!!
ANSWER ME...
WAKE UP
I WILL DO MY DUTY AS CAPTAIN BRAVO, THE WARRIOR CHIEF.
I AM GOING TO TERMINATE KAZUKI AND THEN DEFEAT HE OR.
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
...BY ENDING MY OWN LIFE.
AND THEN, AS MAMORU SAKIMORI, I WILL PAY FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE...


HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
WHAT?
!
NOW, KAZUKI...
...I ASK YOU ONCE MORE...
I WON'T ASK YOU TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF.


WILL YOU GIVE UP YOUR LIFE WILLINGLY?




THEN I REALLY CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!
SO IT'S NOT JUST ME.
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE TOO, BRAVO?
VEEN

I'M GOING TO WIN AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE!!
THE DETER-MINATION TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE END...
CAPTAIN BRAVO!
I'M GOING TO DEFEAT YOU!!

Buso Renkin

Chapter 64: Eater

The "Ikusabe = homunculus eater" concept seemed more like horror than action, so I tried to give the chapter a horror-like feel. But in the end, I didn't know how to make it work so I dropped the idea. The feeling you get from a horror movie is something I've been enjoying a lot lately. There's nothing like that creepy feeling...

We haven't had any animal-based homunculi for a while. At the beginning of this series, I had a temporary assistant who did most of them for me, so having to do one myself was harder than I expected. I apologize to my assistants who had to try to mimic that style.

Papillon's happy sigh. Nice! When I was drawing that panel, I found myself trying to do that same expression. And I have to give a happy sigh for the way it turned out.

Chapter 65: Dawn at the Graveyard

- I like the exchange between Ikusabe and Negoro when Negoro first emerges from Ikusabe's stump. The lines themselves are fairly ordinary, but I like how it turned out.
- The line where Ikusabe asks Kazuki to make a deal with him is another one I really liked in this chapter. And there was the line in which Ikusabe complimented Papillon at the end of the last volume, too. Ikusabe just seems to get the best lines. I think the right side of my brain really works overtime in some situations.
- Gouta's expression while looking at mini-Tokiko was surprisingly popular with the fans.
- Captain Bravo returns. I wanted it to be a surprise, but now that I look at it, it seems kind of predictable.
- I confess that I don't really like working on double page spreads. I don't like my working area to be bigger than a regular sheet of paper.

Chapter 66: No Regrets

- The rematch between Kazuki and Captain Bravo begins. This was another attempt at a super-battle between these two, and I took it into the air this time. It's so hard to do well...
- The line about Maruyama wanting to keep Tokiko in a cage came from the original idea that Maruyama was a psycho, but that was deemed inappropriate for a boy's manga. So I made him just a little twisted and a bit gay-seeming.
- The inside-out guts splattering scene was decided on when the decision was made to shrink Tokiko. Even though she's mellowed a lot lately, it's good to see that Tokiko's mean streak is still operational.

Chapter 67: Secret Passage of Shadows

Though its readers are a little older than those of my other manga, *Buso Renkin* is still a Watsuki title so I couldn't show Tokiko naked. Consequently, I had to figure out a way to avoid it. I thought I should show her entire body at least once in the chapter so my first idea was to use blood to cover things up, but that was a bit much. Finally it occurred to me, "It's a graveyard. There must be some water around."

- Gouta gets an eyeful in this chapter. He's sort of an underdog so I like to throw him a bone once in a while.
- Gozen has his big moment. This is one character that I never want to make too serious. But I'm not sure it worked.

Chapter 68: Meanwhile

- This chapter begins with a status report on the characters. I used a copy machine to create this page and it was a bit more time-consuming than I expected. (We had to locate suitable shots for 13 characters, resize them, and then come up with captions.) But I recalled really liking comics that gave you these updates and reminders when I was a kid, so I thought it was worth it.
- Motor Gears vs. Secret Trail. These weapons are so different but I had to come up with some way for them to fight. The solution was to make this a battle of wits. I thought the mystery of the Secret Trail might have been a bit too hard to grasp, but it turned out to be popular with the fans.
- It isn't easy to balance Gouta's devotion to Tokiko and his growing respect for Kazuki. I want it to be a gradual change.

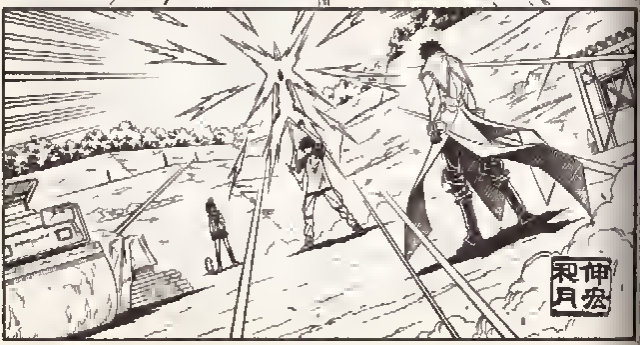
Chapter 69: Round Two

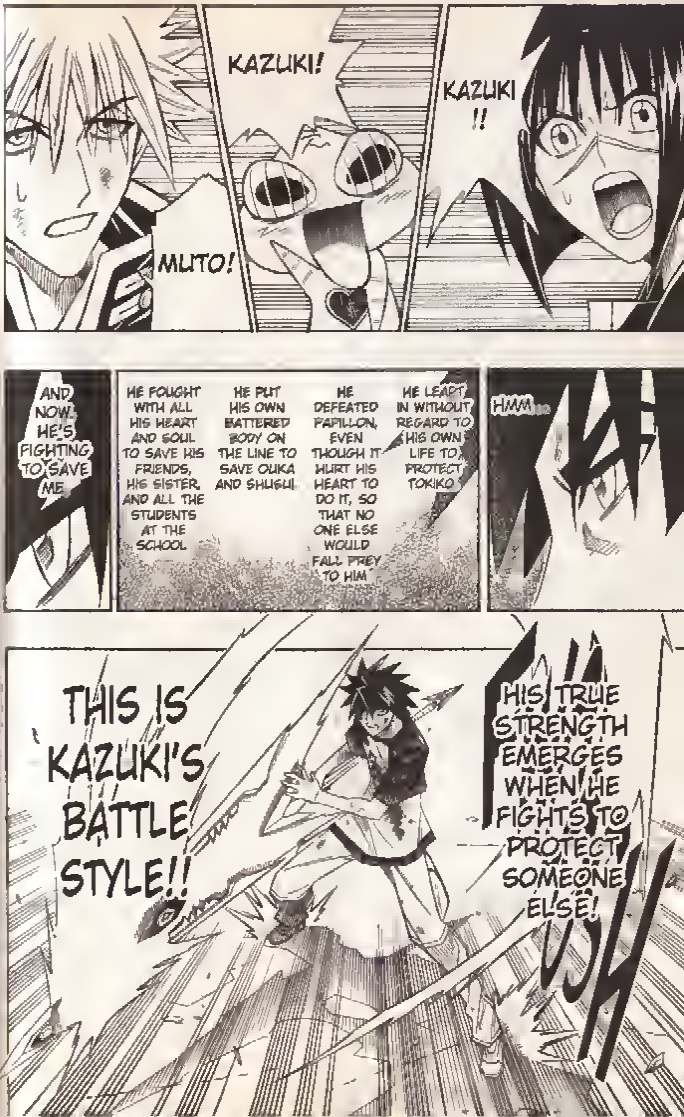
- Once again it's Kazuki vs. Captain Bravo. I decided to make it a double-page spread! But in the weekly serialization, there was a problem with the printing and the edges got cut off. That, along with several other problems, made it a rough time for me.
- I couldn't have Kazuki destroying a lot of graves. I didn't want a repeat of vol. 5 where Kazuki caused most of the damage to Ginsei Academy. So I moved the action to a remote location like any normal Sentai show hero would do.
- Having Kazuki propel himself with his lance was something I'd been saving for this battle. After all he'd been through, I didn't want Kazuki winning by luck. I wanted them to push each other to the limit—that was the important thing.

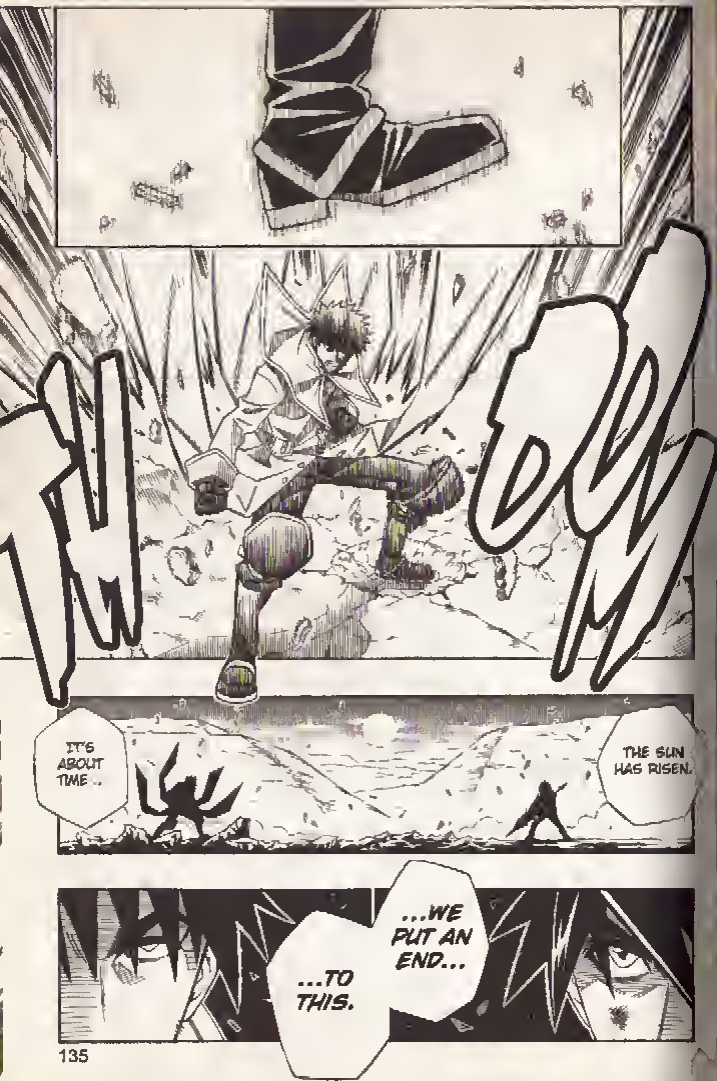
Chapter 70: The Determination to Protect What's Important to the End

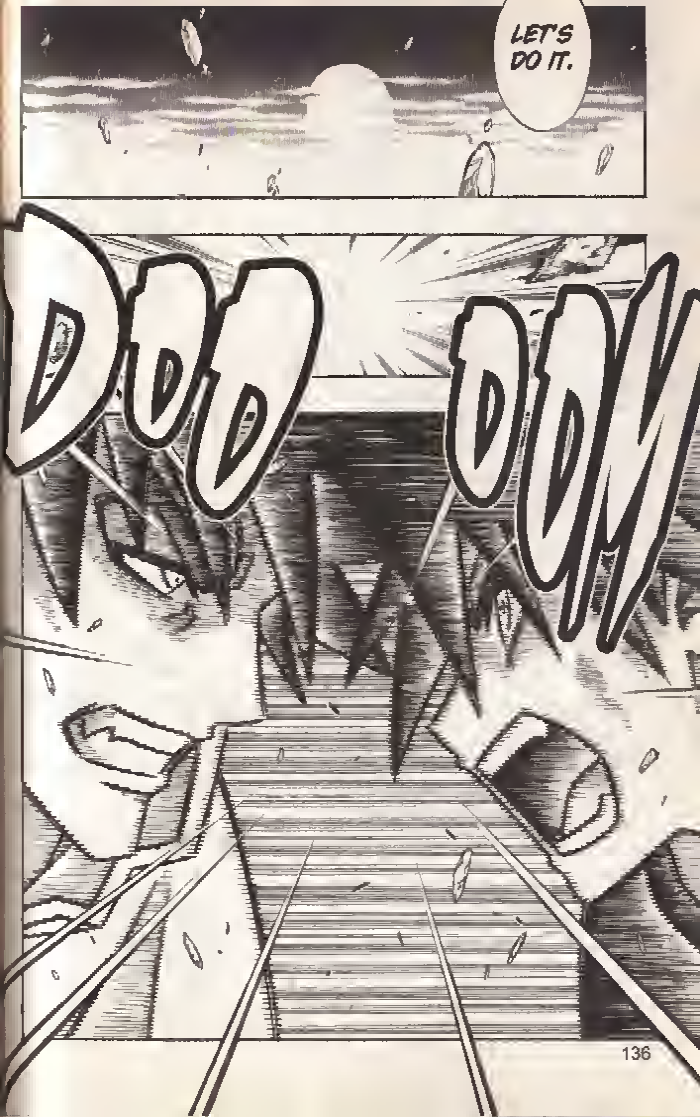
- The Silver Skin–Alternate Type returns. All those little hexagonal plates made this an ordeal for my assistants.
- I think the explanation of how the Silver Skin could be defeated came across very well. It wasn't too long or too complicated. I was pleased that I didn't have to resort to a lot of diagrams and pages.
- After Kazuki declares that he will not use the energy-drain but that he will continue to fight for his beliefs, Bravo reveals that he intends to kill himself when this mission is over. I think that sticking to your beliefs is a good thing and I try to do it myself. The problem is that it requires a lot of tenacity, and it can make life hard for the people around you.
- "The determination to protect what's important to the end." Kazuki says this line, but it reflects how Bravo feels as well. Bravo's drive to do what he believes is right only feeds Kazuki's strength. It's a real clash of hearts and souls between these two.

CHAPTER 71: EXCEL




KAZUKI!
KAZUKI !!
MUTO!
AND NOW, HE'S FIGHTING TO SAVE ME.
HE FOUGHT WITH ALL HIS HEART AND SOUL TO SAVE HIS FRIENDS, HIS SISTER, AND ALL THE STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL
HE PUT HIS OWN BATTERED BODY ON THE LINE TO SAVE OUKA AND SHUGU.
HE DEFEATED PAPILLON, EVEN THOUGH IT HURT HIS HEART TO DO IT, SO THAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD FALL PREY TO HIM
HE LEAPT IN WITHOUT REGARD TO HIS OWN LIFE TO PROTECT TOKIKO
HMM...
THIS IS KAZUKI'S BATTLE STYLE!!
HIS TRUE STRENGTH EMERGES WHEN HE FIGHTS TO PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE!
UGH

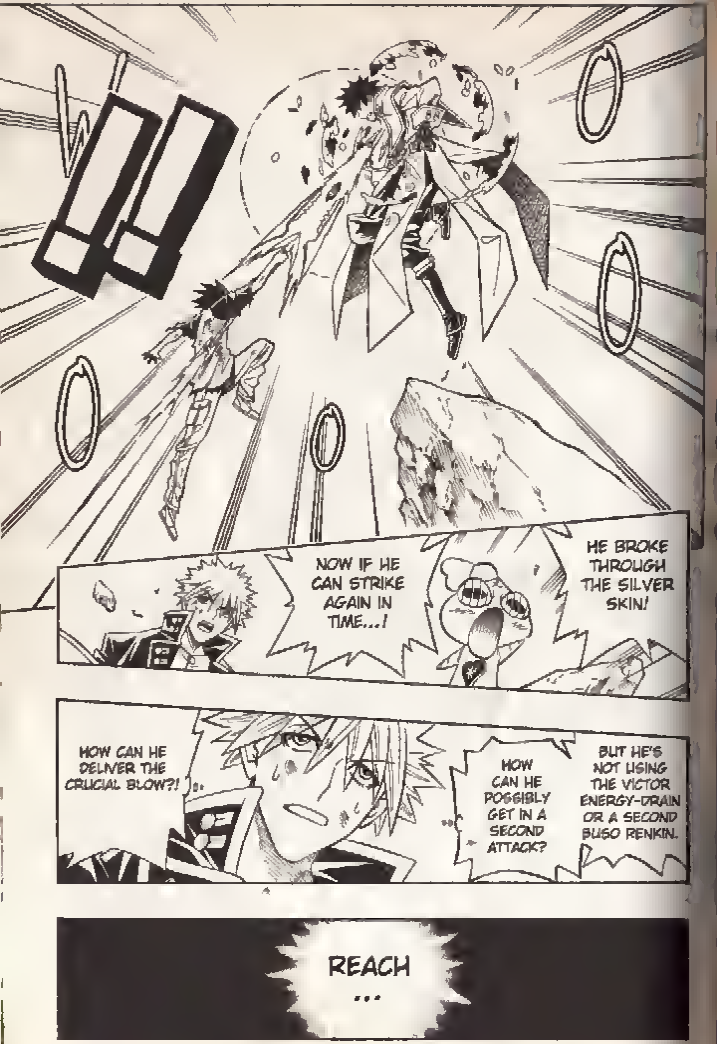

IT'S ABOUT TIME..
THE SUN HAS RISEN.
...WE PUT AN END...
...TO THIS.


LET'S DO IT.
DOD
OOM

BRAVO PUNCH!!
INSTANT DEATH!

READ THIS WAY
HUFF
HUFF
KAZUKI
KAZUKI!!

SWASH
GAAAH!!!
CHINK
WHAT?!


HE BROKE THROUGH THE SILVER SKIN!
NOW IF HE CAN STRIKE AGAIN IN TIME...!
HOW CAN HE DELIVER THE CRUCIAL BLOW?!
HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY GET IN A SECOND ATTACK?
BUT HE'S NOT USING THE VICTOR ENERGY-DRAIN OR A SECOND BUSO RENKIN.
REACH ...

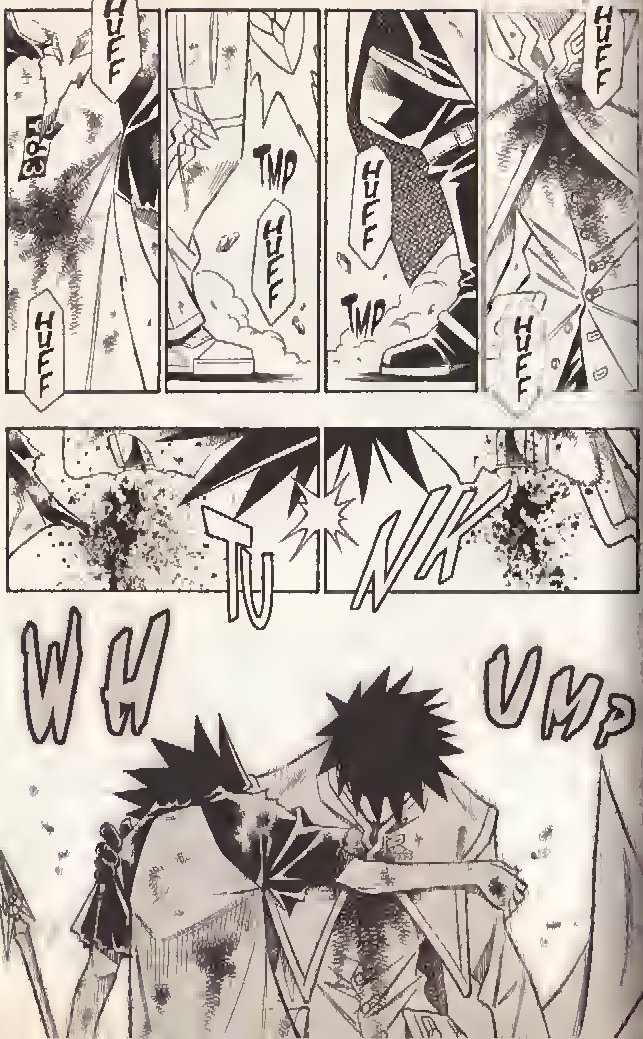
YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS WARRIOR KAZUKI FROM NOW ON.
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE A HYPOCRITE!
FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL! THERE IS NO SHAME IN HOLDING TO YOUR BELIEFS!
BRAVO!
WELL DONE, WARRIOR KAZUKI!
-CHHH!!
KR
AK
REA-

SHUNK

W
NO HESITATION, NO DOUBT.
O
O
O

...AND BREAKS THROUGH
HE PUSHES FORWARD WITH ALL HIS MIGHT AND RESOLVE.

THE FORCE WAS ENOUGH...
...TO SHATTER THE TIP OF HIS OWN LANCE
TMP
IT'S SIMPLE
.. AND YET...


HUFF
HUFF
TMP
HUFF
HUFF
TMP
HUFF
HUFF
TU
NK
WH
UMP

...I KNEW YOU WOULD SURPASS ME ONE DAY.
IF YOU HADN'T BECOME A VICTOR...
...WARRIOR KAZUKI.
AND NOW YOU'VE DONE IT...

TAKE EVERYONE ...
...AND HEAD DIRECTLY ...
...TO NEWTON APPLE ACADEMY FOR GIRLS.
WARRIOR TOKIKO.
Y...
YES?
!
KAZUKI HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DO FAR MORE GOOD THAN I CAN I CAN'T LET HIS LIFE BE WASTED.
I'M GOING TO GAMBLE .
...ON THIS ONE HOPE OF YOURS.
THANK YOU...
...WARRIOR CHIEF

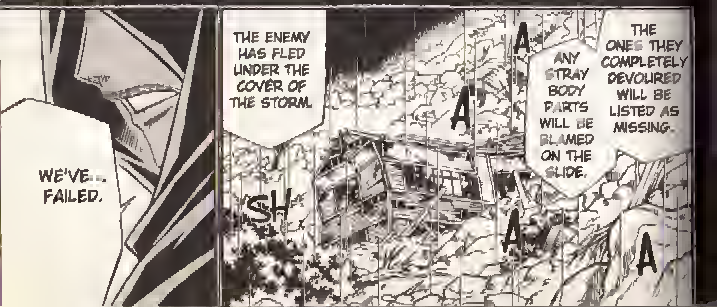
HEY GOUTA, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
THE SUN IS OVER HERE
...BROAD DAYLIGHT.
MAY NOT BE THE BEST TIME TO GO THERE
MAYBE WE SHOULD REST UP AND GO TONIGHT.
FINE, BUT ..
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
THEN...
FWRRRRRRRRR
THOSE THREE BELONG TO THE RE-EXTERMINATION SQUAD! I WON'T LET YOU STEAL THEM FROM US!
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU DIDN'T COME BACK. TRYING TO TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR YOURSELF? YOUR JOB WAS TO WATCH OVER NEGORO AND MARUYAMA.

OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
DO DO

Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン

Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン
8
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED
Story & Art by
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

CHAPTER 72 GONE INTO FLAMES



GAAAH!!
THEY'VE BEEN WIPED OUT!
NO ONE'S LEFT ALIVE!
SHA
A
A
A
A
WHUP
HOMUNCULI!
YOU FIENDS!
I'M SORRY, IT WAS MY FAULT
I'M SO SORRY!
SNIFF
SNIFF
DON'T GIVE UP!

OUR MISSION IS TO SAVE...
...AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN!
EVEN IF WE ONLY SAVE ONE OF THEM!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP...
KLAK

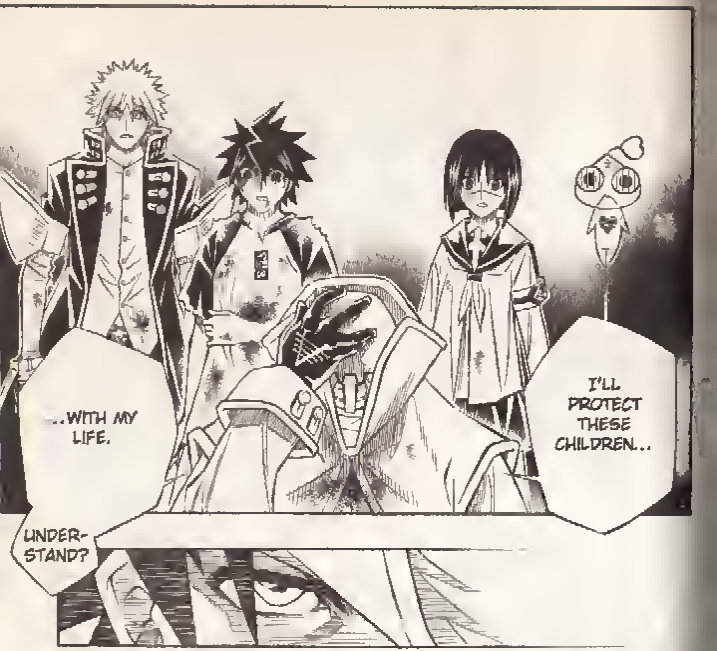
CHAPTER 72: GONE INTO FLAMES

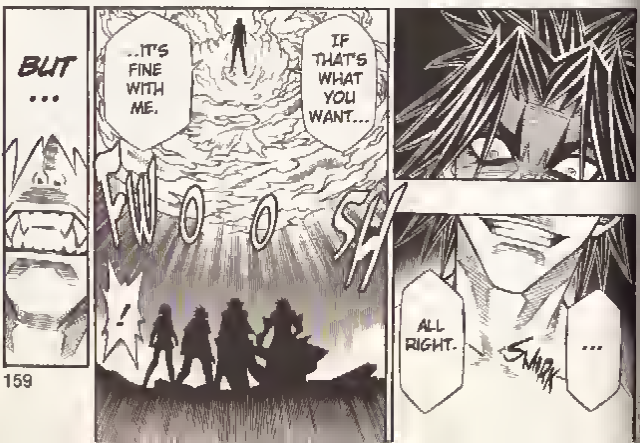
THAT'S...
GOUTA, WHO...
HIS POWER IS MUCH MORE TERRIBLE THAN THAT.
THAT'S NOT JUST PYROKINESIS...
..THE LEADER OF THE RE-EXTERMINATION SQUAD...
...WARRIOR CHIEF HIWATARI.
TO THINK THAT THE ALMIGHTY SILVER SKIN HAS A WEAKNESS!
EXCELLENT!!
I GUESS THIS MEANS YOU'RE NOT OUR ACE IN THE HOLE AGAINST VICTOR AFTER ALL!
CAN IT BE?!
YOU GOT BEATEN, DIDN'T YOU?!
HUH?
HOW'D YOU GET INJURED WHEN YOU HAVE THE SILVER SKIN?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM! STEP ASIDE!!
WHOOM
HEY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
DON'T WORRY. YOU GUYS GET GOING.
BRAVO

YOU KNOW I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF DEAD CHILDREN.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG TIME.
BOOM
...
SO YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER THAT.
I SEE.
THAT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT GOT WIPED OUT, EH?
SEVEN YEARS AGO.
COMET SQUAD'S ONE AND ONLY FAILURE.

ALL THE REST OF THEM DIED !!
WHATEVER!
THERE WAS ONE SURVIVOR.
NOT WIPED OUT.
STOP DRAGGING THAT AROUND, SAKI-MORI!
FWOOSH
WE HAVE TO LIVE AND FIGHT IN AN ABSURD WORLD! LET THE DEAD LIE IN PEACE! GET OVER IT!
IF YOU CAN'T GET PAST THE SIGHT OF DEAD KIDS...
...YOU'RE GOING TO END UP DEAD YOURSELF!!
THAT WAS MY PLAN.
THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT. IT'S THE LIVING
BUT IT'S NOT THE DEAD...

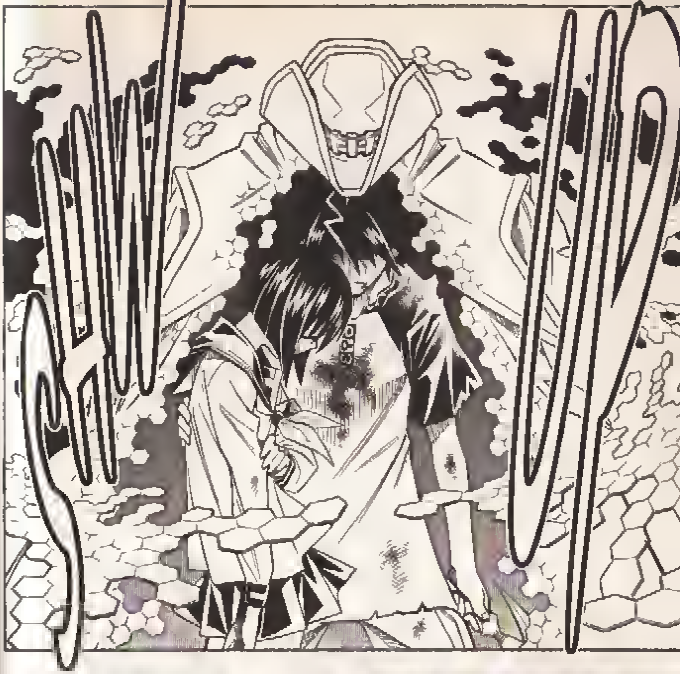

...WITH MY LIFE.
I'LL PROTECT THESE CHILDREN...
UNDER-STAND?


BUT ...
...IT'S FINE WITH ME.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...
WOOSH
!
ALL RIGHT.
SMACK
...

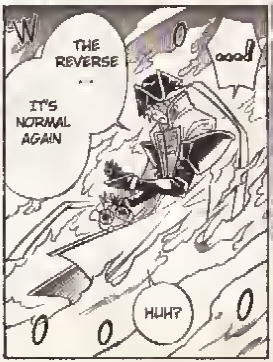
BYE-BYE, KIDDIES !!
...I HAVE A MISSION TO FULFILL FIRST!!
BLAZE OF GLORY!!
BUSO RENKIN OF NAPALM!!
EAT THIS!
SLEEP

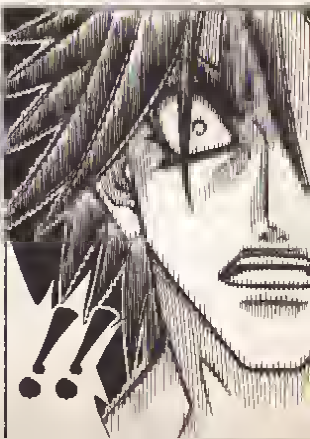
!
HOW DOW

FWOOOOOOO
KRAK
!
BRAVO ...
KRAK
KRAK
YOU'RE A STRONG MAN, STRONGER THAN ME! YOU SHOULDN'T DWELL ON THE PAST.
FORGET WHAT HAPPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO! FORGET THESE DEAD BRATS!
WELL?
ABSURD, ISN'T IT?
I JUST VAPORIZED THOSE YOU SWORE TO PROTECT!
W OOO
EVERYTHING WITHIN A 500-YARD RADIUS HAS JUST BEEN CONSUMED BY A 10,000-DEGREE FIRESTORM!
OOO


SHWIP

BRAVO...


THE REVERSE...
IT'S NORMAL AGAIN
oooo!
HUH?



SHE ?! LEN
SHAO DO
WAR-RIOR CHIEF ?!
KRAK
BRAVO, WHAT ARE YOU...
KRAK
KRANG

ONE OF THEM IS ALIVE!
SHE'S ALIVE...
I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME.
WARRIOR CHIEF!
BRAVO!
I'VE PUT YOU TWO THROUGH A LOT.
KAZUKI ...
...MY SOURCE OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE...
TOKIKO ...
...MY SOURCE OF HOPE FROM THE PAST, AND...
LIVE.
FWASH

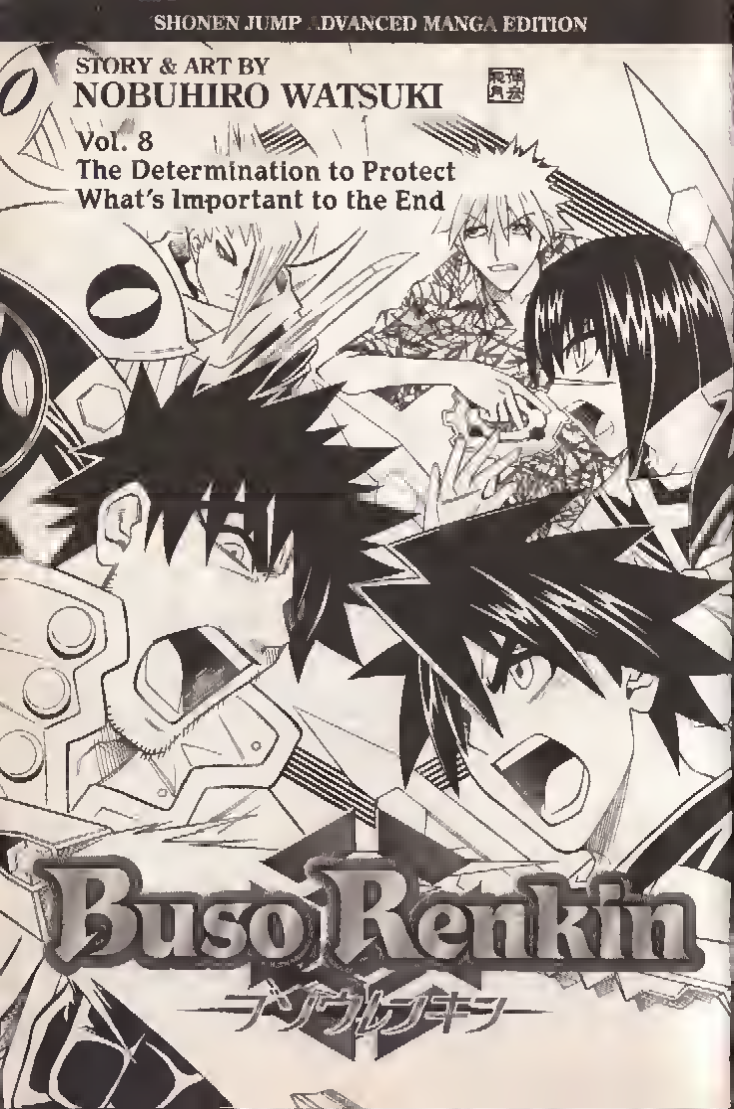
NO!!
YOU...!!!
WARRIOR CHIEF...
BRAVO ...
CAPTAIN BRAVO...
SAKI-
-MORI ...

Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED MANGA EDITION

STORY & ART BY
NOBUHIRO WATSUKI

Vol. 8
The Determination to Protect
What's Important to the End



Buso Renkin

武装錬金

CHAPTER 73: LEAVE THIS TO ME

YOU PIG!!
SHOOM
...SAKIMORI WOULDN'T BE...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
SHUT UP

GRAAH!!
DOOM
!!
FWOSH

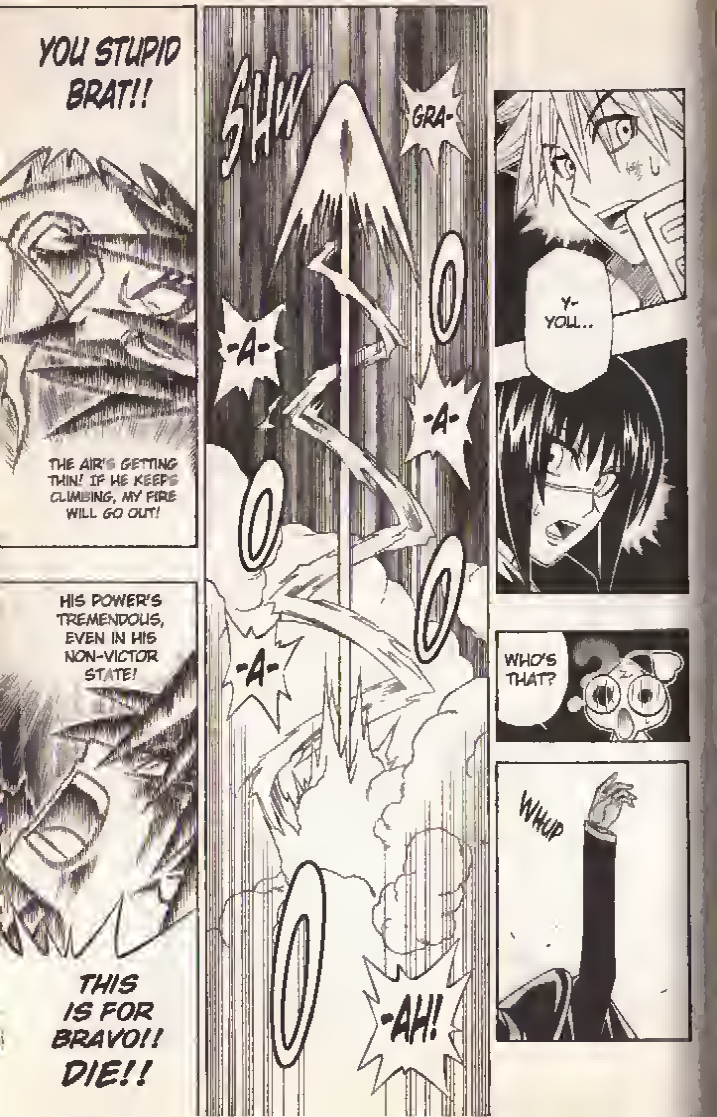
UGH...
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
AS THE FLAMES GROW, SO DOES HIS STRENGTH!!
BY MERGING HIS BODY WITH THE FIRE, HE CAN CONTROL IT!
FLAME ASSIMILATION!!
THE SPECIAL ABILITY OF WARRIOR CHIEF HIWATARI'S BUSO RENKIN!
TAKE THIS!
A 10,000-DEGREE BLAZE!
SHWOOO

GLOORY!!
BLAZE OF...
BU—
KRK
KAZUKI!
!
CHANK
SHWOO

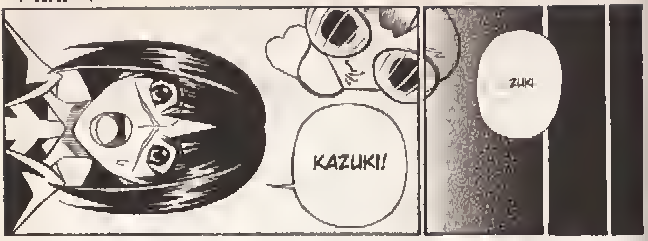
FLOOK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
-MORI
SAKI-
...
SILVER...
...SKIN!!

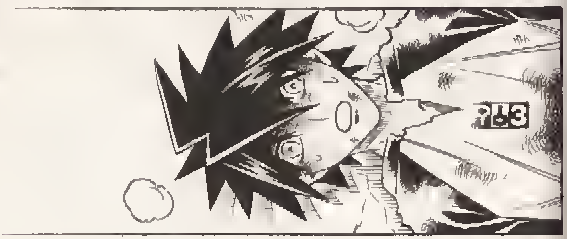
GRAAH!!
AAH!
!!
MAXIMUM
...

THO
ENERGY!
KAZUKI!
WAIT, MUTO!
WHAP
THE SILVER SKIN IS STILL WORKING! THAT MEANS...
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH
THOSE TWO CAN'T HEAR YOU.
LEAVE THIS TO ME.


YOU STUPID BRAT!!
THE AIR'S GETTING THIN! IF HE KEEP'S CLIMBING, MY FIRE WILL GO OUT!
HIS POWER'S TREMENDOUS, EVEN IN HIS NON-VICTOR STATE!
THIS IS FOR BRAVO!! DIE!!
SHW
GRA-
-A-
-A-
-A-
-AH!
Y-YOU..
WHO'S THAT?
WHUP

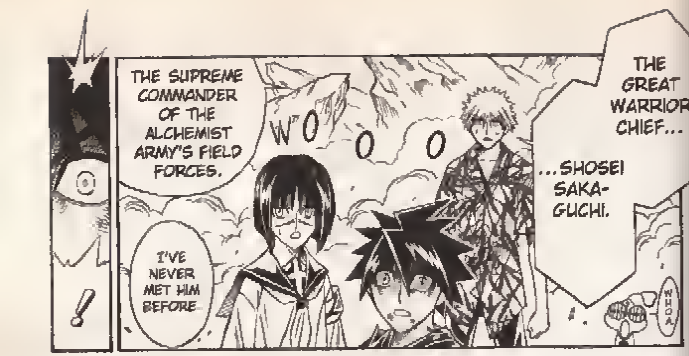
A-
-A-
-A-
-AH!!
!!!

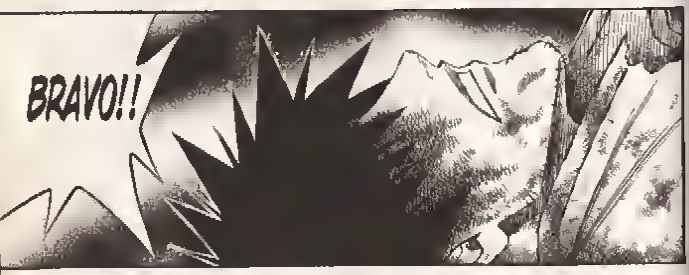

KAZUKI!
ZUKI

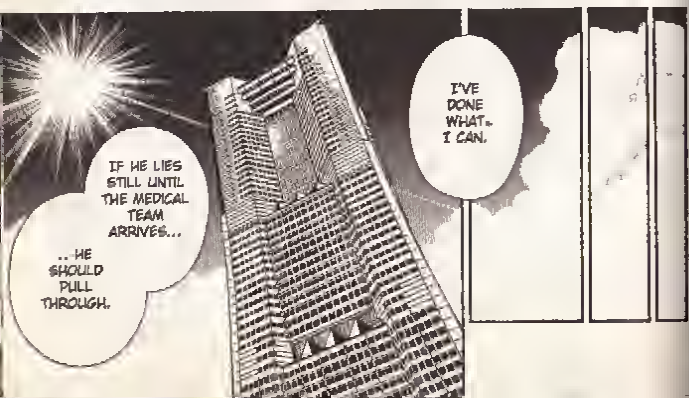

243

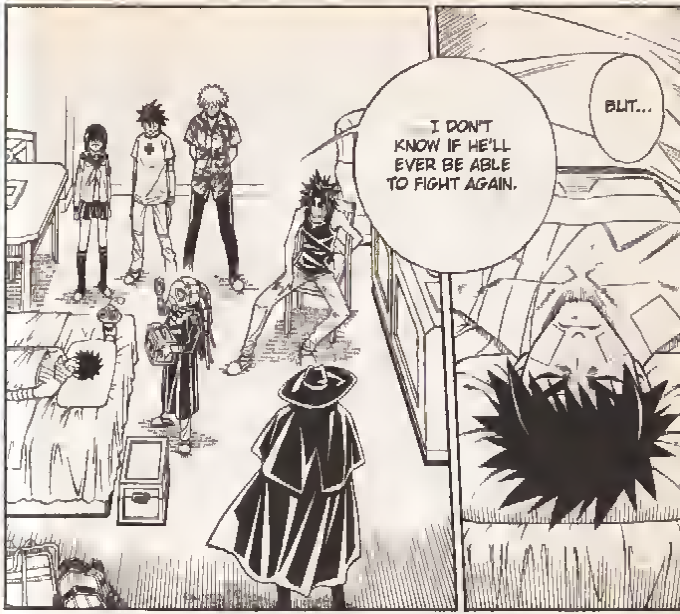
SHOSEI'S BUSO RENKIN.
A BUSO RENKIN...
WHAT WAS THAT THING?
YEAH... I THINK SO.
BUT..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHUP

BOOM
I'M GLAD WE'RE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS, BUT IN FRONT OF THE SUBORDINATES YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS...
...THE GREAT WARRIOR CHIEF.

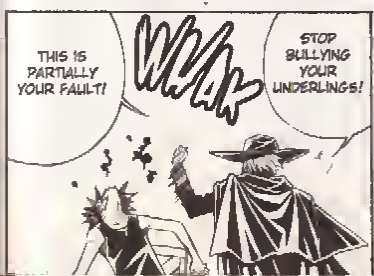

THE GREAT WARRIOR CHIEF...
...SHOSEI SAKAGUCHI.
WHOA
WOOOO
THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALCHEMIST ARMY'S FIELD FORCES.
I'VE NEVER MET HIM BEFORE
!


BRAVO!!


I'VE DONE WHAT I CAN.
IF HE LIES STILL UNTIL THE MEDICAL TEAM ARRIVES...
.. HE SHOULD PULL THROUGH.


I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT AGAIN.
BUT...

YIP!
WOOSH
KLUNK


THIS IS PARTIALLY YOUR FAULT!
WHAM
STOP BULLYING YOUR UNDERLINGS!

SHUT UP...
...OR I'LL KILL YOU!

OLD FOLKS SHOULD SIT IN ROCKING CHAIRS AND DRINK TEA!
YOU GAVE US A MISSION. WHY ARE YOU CHECKING UP ON US?
OWW...
IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS. WE SHOULD ALL HAVE GROWN UP BY NOW.
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD GET ALONG.
HMPH.
S.W.F.
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
PLEASE DON'T BEAT UP WARRIOR CHIEF HIWATARI ANYMORE!
AHH
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

...WE LOCATED VICTOR.
LATE LAST NIGHT ...
!!!

READ THIS WAY
BUT WHEN SOME CRUCIAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING BRAVO, DIDN'T REPORT IN...
...I DECIDED TO CHECK IT OUT IN PERSON.
WE SUMMONED ALL ABLE-BODIED WARRIORS.
WE'RE CURRENTLY MANEUVERING HIM TO AN AREA WE'VE PREPARED IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.
WE MAY NOT GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS.
BRAVO IS A TERRIBLE LOSS
THIS IS THE FINAL BATTLE!
VOLUME 8: THE DETERMINATION TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THE END (THE END)

Chapter 71: Excel

- Bravo's special attack, the Bravo Punch. Right after I finished drawing it, I realized that I'd depicted a Kasane Ate! I thought, "Have I used this before?" and I had to rethink things. I wish I had the strength and the will power to have gone back and fixed it.
- There's a scene where the ground splits open during the battle. I love cataclysmic scenes like this. I wanted to stretch it across two pages, but I had to do it all in one page. Someday I'd really like to do a scene of total devastation.
- Kazuki finally manages to "reach" Bravo—in every sense of the word. I liked finishing the battle this way rather than with just a tactical victory.
- Hiwatari shows up and becomes the biggest problem in this volume.

Chapter 72: Gone Into Flames

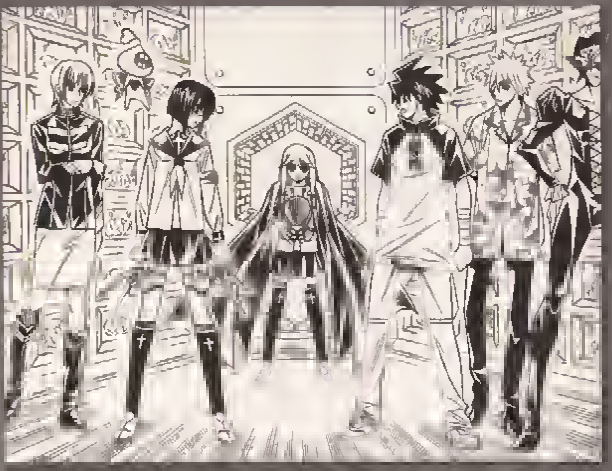
- I took the title from *Gone with the Wind*.
- One thing I realized about myself while drawing Bravo is that I see things a bit differently than I used to. Bravo says he doesn't like to see children get killed and that's how I feel too. I get really depressed when I see kids get killed in movies or in comics. (But I've killed kids in my own stories in the past.) Sometimes it's necessary in order to move the story along, but I'd rather not.
- This doesn't mean that I like to kill off adults. This episode begs the questions, "Is Bravo dead?" In the end, he survives, but readers were split about this. I got some letters that said, "It would've been better if he'd died" and others that said, "I'm glad to see he's still alive. This story isn't about death." The truth is, when I originally planned the series out, Bravo was slated to die. The scene where he sacrifices himself by putting the Silver Skin on his comrades was something I planned a long time ago. But I felt that this just wasn't the right moment and that killing him here felt almost like I was trying to glorify death or something. So I'll save the idea of the good guy dying for his friends for another time.
- Putting Bravo's flashback inside Kazuki's flashback was a bit confusing. When I talked about it with Kurosaki, she wondered if I couldn't have done it differently. All I could do was nod and ponder.

Chapter 73: Leave This to Me

- Kazuki loses it. Normally he's the type who could never truly hate anyone, but he loses it here big time.
- The Great Warrior Chief appears, and the story makes a sudden change of direction. Kazuki's battle with Bravo finishes the Re-Extermination Squad storyline so it was time to move forward. But I guess the readers weren't ready for it because I got a lot of angry letters. I'm sorry. All I can say is that I'll try to do better next time.
- With the closing line, "This is the final battle!" I found myself wondering, "Who said that?" I'm not quite sure whether it was Kazuki or the Great Warrior Chief. In this case, even the writer doesn't know the answer.

And so → To be continued.

Buso Renkin
ブソウレンキン



Coming Next Volume

Now that the Alchemist Army have finally tracked down Victor, they advance full force with the intent to destroy him. Meanwhile, Kazuki, Tokiko and Gouta unexpectedly meet Alexandria and Victoria, Victor's wife and daughter!

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